

gay community news

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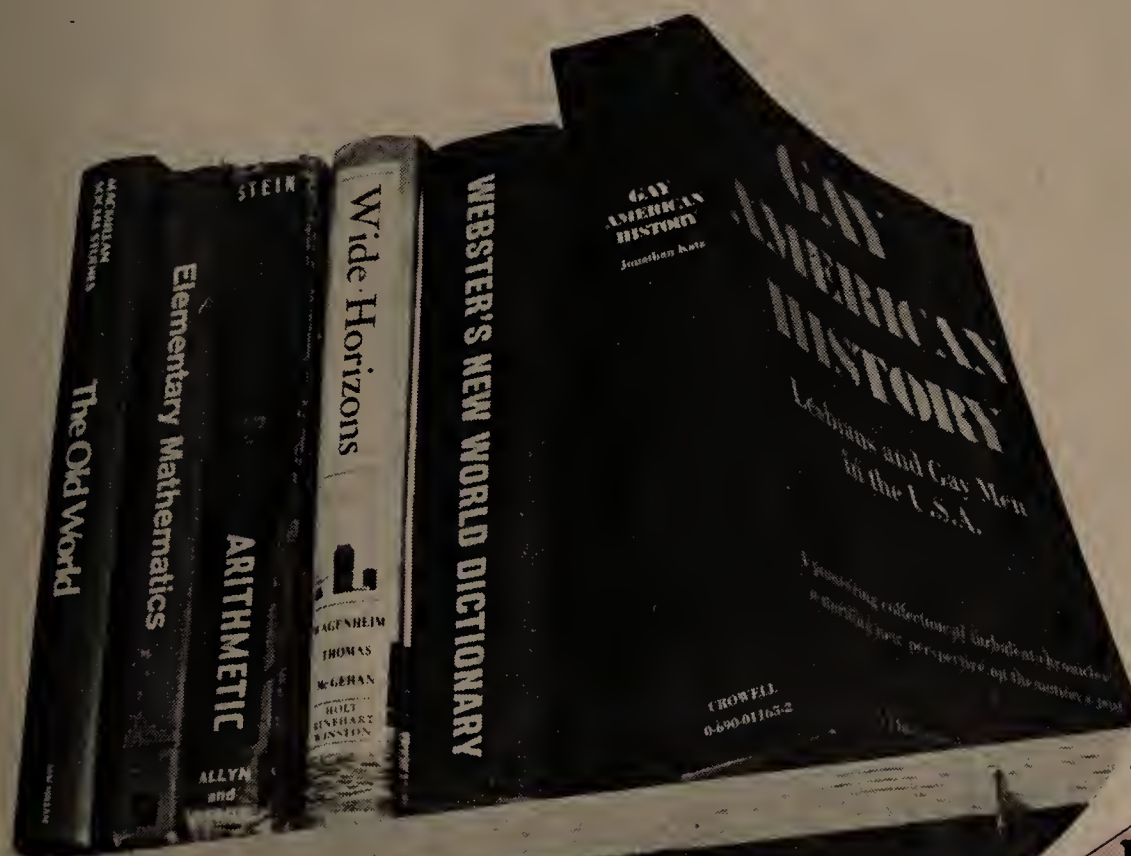
CITY OFFICIALS DISCUSS ARRESTS AT LIBRARY

N.Y. Demonstration Halts Anti-Gay Speech

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED

Violent Unit Opposed at Public Hearing

CRISIS IN THE CLASSROOM: LESBIAN AND GAY TEACHERS IN NEW ENGLAND



Inside

**3
Female
Vocalists**

Frank, Hougen, Rubino, Ward Meet

City Officials Discuss Arrests at Library

BOSTON — City officials met with representatives of Boston's gay community on May 2 to discuss the massive arrests which took place at the Boston Public Library during the month of March. The hour-long meeting was held at City Hall in the office of Stephen Dunleavy, special assistant to Mayor Kevin H. White for police affairs. Also representing the city, in addition to Dunleavy, were Corporation Counsel Herbert P. Gleason and Robert Wassermah, assistant to Police Commissioner Joseph M. Jordan.

Representing the interests of the gay community were Rep. Barney Frank, who arranged for the meeting, Rev. Edward Hougen of Metropolitan Community Church, Atty. John Ward, Atty. Richard Rubino, and David Brill of GCN.

The emphasis of the meeting was on what the official course of action should be by the city in the event of future complaints about gay male



State Rep. Barney Frank

cruising on city property. Suggestions presented included the posting of a sign indicating the possible presence of police officers, the use of uniformed officers, advance notice of police actions, and, in the particular case of the library, large partitions to prevent men from congregating in the men's room. Hougen also suggested that gay persons be appointed to the relevant city boards to provide gay input into policy-making matters.

The city officials agreed to consider methods by which police records of the library defendants, especially those who were acquitted, could be retrieved from the FBI. Rubino pointed out that FBI arrest records, even those which resulted in acquittals, can be obtained by out-of-state police departments by making a request into the agency's national computer, possibly jeopardizing a person's employment opportunities for life.

It was acknowledged by all three city

representatives that the police response to complaints about gay cruising must be comparable to the response to complaints about heterosexual solicitation. Frank noted that the Supreme Judicial Court, in two unanimous decisions in 1974 and 1977, ruled that homosexual acts committed in private are not illegal.

The most important product of the meeting was the willingness of the city officials to establish a liaison structure with the gay community for all city agencies. In the event of future grievances between the city and the gay community, there will be contact persons — something which all parties agreed would have averted the need for arresting 105 men at the Public Library.

Frank said he was generally satisfied with the meeting. "The city is willing to work with the gay community," he told GCN. "We have the attention of the right people."

Worcester Facility Seen as 'Threat'

Violent Unit Opposed at Public Hearing

By Kathy Travers

WORCESTER, MA — Testimony at two recent public hearings overwhelmingly opposed the creation of the proposed Worcester State Hospital Unit for "violent" women.

Criticisms at the April 26 hearing, as at the initial hearing in March, hit on several major targets: the large potential for civil liberties abuses, the lack of standards or descriptions of what treatment would be offered, and the inappropriateness of a maximum-security, 24-hour lockup as a setting for meaningful health care. Further, testimony charged that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) has failed to show any need for the unit and is working against its own policy of de-institutionalization.

The DMH claims a facility is needed for women who would otherwise be sent to Bridgewater: women they have defined with phrases like "dangerous," "violent," and "seriously acting-out against themselves or

others." Since 1973 several proposals for a centralized maximum security facility have been considered and dropped after public opposition.

Suit Brought

A suit brought in 1977 by 34 groups of ten taxpayers forced DMH to file for the legally required Certificate of Need with the Department of Public Health. The Dept. of Public Health called these hearings as part of the settlement of the taxpayers' suit. This is the first time that public hearings have been held, though over half a million dollars of state funds have already been appropriated and \$460,000 more has been requested as a line item in the 1978-79 budget. Legally, DMH was required to file a Certificate of Need application and call for public hearings when they put in their initial request for funding.

'Threat' to Civil Liberties

The unit would have ten beds on a 24-hour locked maximum security

ward. It would be heavily staffed with people who are well trained with "behaviorally dangerous" patients. The proposal also calls for a clinical counseling team to work directly with patients or with staff, in the women's original facility if possible.

Women could be drawn from MCI Framingham or any DMH facility (state hospitals, for example). No hearing would be required before transfer into the unit from a prison or mental institution. In contrast, at MCI Bridgewater, a similar facility for men, specific standards must be met before a man can be transferred in.

There are no clear guidelines on who is to be admitted to the unit or what rights a woman would have to contest her transfer there. The Prisoners' Rights Project asserts this means a woman could be transferred for punitive reasons or to discourage her from exercising her First Amendment rights.

The lack of rules governing admis-

sions is just one area that critics say threatens civil liberties. Opponents worry about prisoners' basic rights to privacy, such as receiving uncensored mail, visits, and phone calls, and communicating privately with an attorney. Conflicting information is given by the DMH on patients' rights to refuse "treatment" such as forced drugging, shock therapy, and psychosurgery. For example, DMH has said that psychosurgery would not be used in the unit, and they have also stated that any patient would have the right to refuse psychosurgery. As Miriam Greenspan pointed out in her testimony, "Why would they need to refuse it if it's not going to be used?"

Lee Swislow, a lesbian who testified against the unit, told GCN why she felt lesbians should be concerned. She said, "The unit is one way the male-dominated culture plans to continue to dominate women. One of the groups they want to control is lesbians,

Continued on Page 15

Noble Announces Candidacy for Democratic Senate Nod

By David Brill

BOSTON — Rep. Elaine Noble formally announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate on Thursday evening, April 25, at the Park Plaza Hotel. To a cheering crowd of 300 old and new supporters, Noble denounced incumbent Sen. Edward Brooke as an absentee Senator more concerned with Washington than Massachusetts, and insisted that she would be able to beat Brooke in November.

In her eight-minute announcement speech, which was interrupted nine times by applause, Noble said, "I see the junior Senator providing the straight-line link between the people of this state and their federal government. The job of that government remains

what it always has been: to do for the people those things the people cannot do for themselves."

She acknowledged that she was "different" — but defended her past candidacies on the grounds that her supporters were also "different" (she cited "the elderly, the blue-collar worker, the young, the student, the business man and woman").

Downplaying Gay

In nine pages of material given to reporters, the word "gay" does not appear; nor did Noble use the word in her opening remarks. This is consistent with Noble's oft-stated intentions to conduct her senatorial campaign with no emphasis on her sexuality.

A handful of Noble's original 1974 campaign committee members were



Elaine Noble announcing her candidacy

present in the audience. Her first campaign manager, Ann Maguire, was there, as were the most loyal ex-aides, Robert Mikolitch and Linda Lachman. A number of elderly Back Bay and Fenway residents also attended.

Although Noble's "name" endorses — such as Lt. Gov. Thomas P. O'Neill, Mass. House Speaker Thomas McGee, and Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti — have given the campaign a powerful boost, none of them were present. Two state representatives were there: Rep. Barney Frank, who is inheriting one-third of Noble's district, and Rep. Roland Orlandi, the North End legislator who is not seeking reelection this year in order to run for Suffolk County Register of Probate.

Continued on Page 7

News Notes

GAY PAPER FOLDS

DETROIT — In a statement released on April 14, the Board of Trustees of Metro Gay News, Inc., announced the ceasing of publication of the monthly Detroit-based newspaper, effective with the April issue. Two major reasons were given by the board for the paper's closing. They explained that "there was a lack of substantial capital to underwrite the operation of the paper during a time when current revenues were insufficient to meet the financial needs of the paper, and that there was a chronic inability to attract sufficient qualified personnel to continue producing a high quality periodical."

Metro Gay News has pledged that it will never release the names of subscribers to others, and their closing will not change this policy. They are attempting to arrange for another midwestern gay newspaper to fulfill the remaining subscriptions of those MGN subscribers who give permission to release their names and addresses. MGN asks its readers to contact them by May 15 at POB 445-A, Detroit, Mich. 48232.

PERSECUTION WORLDWIDE

COPENHAGEN — Danish and Dutch gay activists have launched a worldwide campaign to deal with the persecution and jailing of gay men and lesbians in every nation. The activists hope to persuade Amnesty International "to regard imprisoned homosexuals as prisoners of conscience and to make it produce a resolution about the question for the international convention scheduled for the fall of 1978." Mogens Madsen, a Danish gay activist, has issued an appeal for information and "articles about gay suppression and persecution" in the U.S. and in other countries. He said that it is most important to have "case studies about individual persons."

Anyone wishing to provide such information should mail it to Mogens Madsen, Skovstjernevej 141, 2400 Copenhagen, NV, Denmark. Similar information may be sent to a Dutch group: Gon Burman, Rob van Diggelen and Jan Postema, Amnesty International, Dutch section, 3e Hugo de Grootstraat 7, Amsterdam, NL, Holland.

ANTI-NUKE DEMO

BOSTON — A new group has formed calling itself Women For A Non-Nuclear Future. The group presently consists of women from the Mobilization for Survival Feminist Task Force and Boston Clamshell's Women's Support Group. Women For A Non-Nuclear Future is sponsoring a march and rally on May 20. The march begins at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall Plaza, and the rally begins at noon on the Boston Common. The purpose of the march is "to inform people of the very real health hazards resulting from nuclear power. We are reaching out to people in our communities that haven't been involved in the anti-nuke struggle. We are asking everyone to come and find out more about the dangers of nuclear power and join with us to raise our voices together to protest nuclear power."

NAVY SUIT CONTINUES

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — United States District Court Judge Cecil F. Poole, on Friday, April 7, 1978, refused to dismiss a lawsuit in which he had enjoined the processing of Navy personnel for discharge on grounds of homosexuality.

Judge Poole previously had ordered the reinstatement of Ignacio Martinez, on the grounds that the Navy regulations used to process him were unconstitutional, in that they failed to consider his ability to do his job. The Navy conceded he had done a very good job, and re-enlisted Martinez, according to San Francisco lawyer John Vaisey, director of the Pride Foundation.

The government had moved to dismiss the lawsuit since Martinez had been re-enlisted and a new regulation had been implemented in place of one of the previous ones. Vaisey objected on grounds that the new regulation still fell short of Judge Poole's order and that the government still maintained secret files and classifications on citizens and that the government had not paid Martinez all of his re-enlistment pay.

SPRING BRUNCH AT HCHS

BOSTON — The Homophile Community Health Service will hold a Spring Brunch on Sunday, May 21, at the Rooftop Ballroom of the Parker House, Tremont Street, Boston. The event will begin at noon and run until 3 p.m.

The fundraiser will begin with a champagne hour followed by a sit-down brunch. After the brunch, speakers will provide information about the seven-year history of the Health Service, its current programs, financial growth, and plans for future development. Sanford Reder, M.D., of the Gay Health Collective, will act as M.C.

Prior reservation is required to attend the Spring Brunch. For information, call 542-5188.

BALTIMORE GAY CENTER

BALTIMORE — The Gay Community Center of Baltimore has announced the opening of its facilities to lesbians and gay men. Located at 2133 Maryland Avenue, the center contains a library, reading and lounge area, meeting area, coffee-house and daytime game room. Needed to get the place in shape, besides money, are gay books and periodicals, folding ping pong and pool tables, folding chairs, tables, rugs, etc.

In May the center should be hearing from the government about whether or not they will receive any of the seven paid CETA staff positions for which they recently applied.

CHEER UNDER INVESTIGATION

SAN FRANCISCO — The Center for Homosexual Evaluation, Education and Research (CHEER) under the direction of Dr. John de Cecco at San Francisco State University, is currently under investigation by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), its funding body. The investigation is largely the result of letters by former staff members and associates of CHEER alleging unethical professional and administrative practices. These letters, which had been "dead end" filed at the NIMH, only came to light when a questionable interim report from CHEER on the state of the half million dollar grant to study sexual assault in prisons raised some suspicions at the NIMH about the quality of the research.

Bruce Ringler, Chief of Grants and Contracts at NIMH, and his assistant Gloria Levine, who is a budget analyst, flew to San Francisco from the Institute of Maryland to conduct a series of hearings with twelve gay researchers from the Bay Area who had registered complaints.

TEACHERS UNDER FIRE

OKLAHOMA CITY — A bill that would permit the firing of teachers engaging in public homosexual conduct received the approval of the Oklahoma Senate in April. The measure, which was authored by Rep. John Monks and Sen. Mary Helm, prompted no debate and passed by a 42-0 vote. Gov. David Boren is expected to sign the bill.

Under its provisions, a school board could fire, suspend, or deny re-employment to a teacher, student-teacher, or teacher's aide after finding that they had engaged in public homosexual conduct or activity.

Public homosexual conduct is defined under the measure as advocating, soliciting, imposing, encouraging or promoting public or private homosexual activity in a manner that creates a substantial risk that such conduct will come to the attention of school children or school employees.

BOB HOPE ON BRYANT

STILLWATER, OK — Bob Hope said that Texaco Inc., which sponsors many of his television specials, has asked him to stop making jokes about gays and Anita Bryant.

The comedian, who makes commercials for Texaco, said the company urged him to "please, please lay off the Anita Bryant jokes" because "customers started tearing up their credit cards and sending them back."

A spokesperson for Texaco said that the firm had received a number of complaints about Hope's Bryant jokes "and we requested him to refrain from them and he agreed."

Hope said that he has great respect for Bryant and thinks she got more involved than she intended to in her opposition to gays. The comedian was in Stillwater appearing at a benefit for a local YMCA.

LIBRARY CONVICTION

BOSTON — A 17-year-old Boston man was found guilty of prostitution and fined \$50 last Wednesday by Boston Municipal Court Judge Joseph DeGugliemo. The man was one of 105 men arrested during March at the Boston Public Library; his was the first outright conviction of any of the library defendants. [See related story, Page 1.]

DeGugliemo rejected all defense attempts by Massachusetts Defenders Committee lawyer John Salzburg to question the credibility of the arresting officer, Angelo Terrizzi, who in the past has been unable even to identify defendants in the courtroom. Terrizzi claimed the man solicited sex from him for \$10; the defendant claimed to have said nothing to the man and that he was only standing near him when the young plainclothes officer arrested him. "The community is outraged by this conduct," said DeGugliemo. The man intends to appeal the conviction.

There were three other library trials for "open and gross lewdness" the same day before Judge Harold Canavan. One was found not guilty, while the other two were continued without findings for one year.

GAY SOFTBALL

BOSTON — The Boston Area Gay Softball Committee (BAGSC) announces the formation of the "Lucky-13 Softball League." The league will play a 13-week season starting May 20, culminating with a city championship game on Aug. 26. Games will be played Saturday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. An open meeting for all people interested in playing in the league will be held Saturday, May 13 at 4:00 p.m. at the Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets. If unable to attend this meeting, call Stewart at 491-6587 for details.

LESBIAN ARTICLES ON FILM

CHICAGO — The women of *Jump Cut* are in the process of organizing a special section of their publication that will be devoted to the treatment of lesbian filmmaking and film criticism. *Jump Cut* is a film publication composed of men and women of varying leftist perspectives. They have a commitment to the political struggles of lesbians and gay men, and see these struggles as crucial to the development of left cultural work.

Jump Cut is looking for articles on all aspects of the lesbian experience in and with films, and also for advisors who have ideas to contribute or who will help solicit and organize pieces for this special section. If you are interested in submitting material or helping them out, contact *Jump Cut*, 3138 W. Schubert, Chicago, IL 60647. The deadline for the next issue is June, 1978.

SHIPMENT RELEASED

NEW YORK CITY — A shipment of books, phonograph records and other material sent from the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop to an Edmonton, Alberta, Canada bookstore has finally been released by Canadian Customs.

As reported in GCN (Vol. 5, No. 40) the shipment was designated "controversial" by the Collector of Customs in Edmonton. Officials told GCN at that time that the shipment was under investigation. On April 24, 1978, Vanguard Books of Edmonton informed the Oscar Wilde that the books had been received. Rosemary Ray, Vanguard's Bookstore Coordinator, wrote, "they [Canadian Customs] finally decided to hand them over." The package of books, records and other material was mailed by Oscar Wilde to Canada on Jan. 25.

RAP GROUPS FORMING

NEW YORK — Dykes and Tykes, an organization of lesbian mothers and their children and other women involved in child raising, has organized a number of rap groups for women in the New York City area. If you are interested in joining or forming a group for lesbian mothers, co-mothers, lesbians living with husbands, lesbians considering parenthood, a peer group for sons, a Third World Womens group, contact Dykes and Tykes at (212) 777-7697.

Lesbians Organize Rallies

Plan Mother's Day Weekend Demonstrations

BOSTON — Demonstrations are being planned throughout the nation over Mother's Day weekend supporting the strengths, struggles and demands of lesbian mothers. The nationwide demonstrations are being called by the Seattle-based Lesbian Mother National Defense Fund and New York City's Dykes and Tykes.

At the present time only 2% of the openly lesbian mothers who go into court on custody issues win. This does not include the lesbian friends, lovers and relatives who can not openly fight for custody. Winning a custody battle is never a secure victory as custody can always be challenged anew by the father or the State, if it can be shown that there are now "new circumstances". Lesbian mothers often live in constant fear of losing their children. It is estimated that between 13-30% of lesbians are mothers.

Boston Demonstration Organized

A rally has been organized in Boston

for Saturday, May 13 at noon on the Boston Common near the State House. There will be music, as well as speakers on being a lesbian mother, child custody rights for lesbians with children, welfare rights, sterilization abuse, and abortion. The Mother's Day Committee, an ad hoc group of mothers and non-mothers in the Boston area, believe their demonstration is broader than the issue of custody rights for lesbian mothers, but deals with the questions of just who the "state allows to bear and keep their children and why attacks are being made on Third World women and poor women". They told GCN, "We see this demonstration as part of our struggle as women to have the right to have a family *if we choose, when we choose and how we choose.*"

Organizers see this demonstration as relating to the concerns of lesbian mothers and all people who live outside the "supposed norm of the white,

middle-class, two parent, two children family." Demands for the rally include: full custody rights for lesbians with children, an end to sterilization abuse, free abortion for all women, access to the resources necessary to feed, clothe and house ourselves and our children, universal free child care, readily available free health care, full employment with good jobs at good wages, and support for affirmative action hiring.

Men Organize Contingent

A special contingent of men supporting lesbian mothers will be at the rally. One of the contingent's organizers, Eric Rogers, told GCN, "Men in the community have started to realize that it's important to support the struggles of all women to control their lives. We believe it is time to start actively supporting women and to let them know that men are fighting with them against the patriarchy." Rogers encouraged men to come to the demonstration and urged all those who

wanted to be in the "men supporting lesbian mothers" contingent to meet at the rally site at 11:30 a.m.

N.Y. Organizes Demonstration, Rally

New York City Dykes and Tykes will be having a rally and cultural program on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at P.S. 41, 12th Street off 6th Avenue. The rally will have a variety of speakers and entertainers from Dykes and Tykes and from many supporting groups and individuals who will address themselves "to the common struggles faced by poor and working people — in particular women, Third World people, lesbians and gay men, in the face of the renewed onslaught which has been launched against us by the state and right wing organizations."

The following day, Monday, May 15, there will be a demonstration in front of Family Court in Manhattan, a visible symbol of the custody battles. That demonstration will be from noon to 2 p.m. at 60 Lafayette St.

Dr. Socarides Cancels Engagement

NY Demonstration Halts Anti-Gay Speech

By Harold Pickett

NEW YORK — On Friday, April 28, approximately 60 people attended a demonstration at the Carnegie International Building to protest the speaking engagement of psychiatrist Charles Socarides. Socarides is an outspoken advocate of the "gays are sick" theory and claims to be able to "cure" gays through therapy.

Socarides, however, cancelled his scheduled appearance when his host, the New York Center for Psychoanalytic Training, refused to take responsibility for providing him with "security."

The demonstration was called a success by the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) and Lesbian Feminist Liberation (LFL), the two groups co-sponsoring the demonstration.

GAA said, "Two years ago, the last time Socarides tried to speak in New York City without permitting a pro-gay viewpoint to be aired, the 'dissenting viewpoint,' in the form of a large lesbian and gay demonstration, was so effective it prompted the sponsors of his lecture to cancel the one-sided, bigoted presentation."

Village March

Stimulated by the victory of Socarides' cancellation and encouraged by the large turnout for the demonstration, GAA and LFL called for the protestors to reassemble in Greenwich Village's Sheridan Square to protest the defeat of the St. Paul gay rights bill by referendum in that city and to demand the passage of the New York City bill.

At 9:30 p.m., the group had assembled for the impromptu street demonstration. Bullhorns were used to urge others to join the demonstrators, who carried gay rights placards, as well as the GAA and LFL banners. Without a permit, they marched down Christopher Street chanting slogans demanding lesbian and gay rights. Police from the Sixth Precinct did not try to stop the demonstration. Instead, they provided an escort and stopped the traffic at cross-streets.

From Christopher Street the march turned north on Hudson Street and back to Christopher by way of Bleecker Street. Against the Christopher Street traffic, the marchers headed back to Sheridan Square where they paused for a brief rally at the site

of the old Stonewall Bar, where riots almost ten years ago sparked the modern phase of the gay liberation movement. There, one heckler tried to assault Seth Lawrence, chair of GAA's Political Action Committee, who was speaking to the crowd of over 200 about the meaning of the Stonewall riots. Police quickly removed the heckler, however.

The march then turned north for one block and back down Christopher Street again, this time pausing at bars to urge others "Out of the bars and into the streets." The demonstration continued up West Street, still pausing at bars for others to join.

One unpleasant incident occurred at Peter Rabbit where the metal doors were locked to prevent the possibility of any marchers from entering. This angered several people, who kicked the doors and denounced "low consciousness."

The march continued back to Christopher Street and on to Sheridan Square, pausing at the Duchess, a lesbian bar that also locked its doors in the face of demonstrators.

With the police still directing traffic,

over 400 demonstrators marched east to rally at the downtown residence of Mayor Koch, near Washington Square Park.

There, Betty Santoro, of LFL and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, spoke to the crowd, saying "This is not Minnesota and this is not Dade County. This is New York City, the only city in the country where lesbians and gay men drove Anita Bryant out! We've fought seven long years for this bill and *when* it's passed, and it *will* be passed, ain't nobody gonna take it away from us!"

Seth Lawrence told the crowd, "This bill will happen when this liberal bachelor from the Village pays off City Council Majority Leader Thomas Cuite in a trading deal." Lawrence emphasized the importance of militantly demanding the bill, adding "I don't want anyone trading *shit* for my rights."

Carolyn Pope, of LFL, the last speaker, urged each person to find "ten, twelve, a hundred people just like you" for future actions. She exclaimed "I will not be the first person into the gas chamber and I will not go quietly!"

Vermont Women March to 'Reclaim Night'

By Nancy Wechsler

BURLINGTON, VT — On the night of April 29, seventy angry and spirited women and children marched through the streets of this city in a show of strength and to "reclaim the night." The Burlington march was organized by activists in the lesbian and women's community including women from Women Against Rape (WAR) and Women in Transition. The organizers heard about the idea for the march from the Washington, D.C., Feminist Alliance, who sent out letters to rape crises centers around the country encouraging national demonstrations to "take back the night."

Marching from City Hall Park to Battery Park, through downtown, demonstrators chanted "Women, children, old unite — we are going to take

back the night," "2-4-6-8, none of us deserves to be raped." A favorite chant of some of the women demonstrators was "The power they have is not their right — it's the men who should have a curfew at night." Many men standing on the sidewalks watching the demonstration heckled and made noises at the demonstrators. Some women joined the march, while others stood and read leaflets they were given by the marchers.

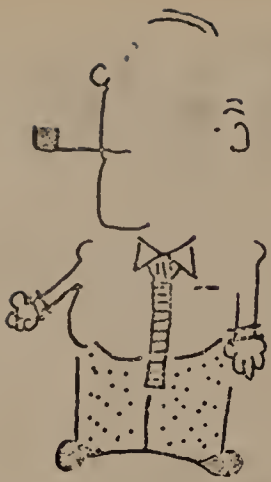
The leaflets handed to passers-by explained the reasons for the march, "We march with flashlights and whistles to emphasize our determination and readiness to enforce our right to be on the streets at night without fear of being victims to the harassments of men. We march this night with women in other cities across the country to

declare our right to freedom of movement: on the streets, in our homes, in the workplaces, in cars or public transit — whether alone or not — unhassled and unmolested. We are asserting the right of women, children and old people to self defense and the right to control our own bodies and sexuality. We want to meet the approaching spring and summer which too often become 'open season on women and old people' with a sense of power, anger and unity."

Demands for the march included: Self defense in the schools for all children and high school women; funding for self defense classes for all women and elderly people; free medical treatment for victims of assault; financial support to the already existing Women's House of Transition; more rape and assault crises counseling cen-

ters; that city property be turned over to women's groups for shelters for battered women and children. Organizers also included in their demands that the U.S. Congress defeat H.R.6869-A (previously known as S-1) which would, if passed, make demonstrations such as the one in Burlington illegal. The marchers called for a change in the "law enforcement peoples attitude that we should stay off the streets at night to avoid attack — and deal with the problem, not avoid it by scapegoating women, old people and children."

Over six months ago several women were raped in Burlington, and the police made a statement to the press that women should stay off the streets. The lesbian and women's community responded at that time by picketing the police department headquarters.



on the one hand,
if there were no guns
less people could
be shot.

abbesmith
9/26/75



But, on the other hand,
prohibiting the sale of
guns would limit
personal freedom.



A compromise is in order:



Don't sell guns to women.

community voices

st. paul and dade county

To the Editor:

It seems to me that the opponents of homosexual rights and now one supporter, St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, continue to ignore a basic concept of America. Constitutional law, that is, legal protection of minority groups.

I don't want to appear naive, after all, fighting an issue concerning oppressed groups via the "democratic way" is almost completely useless. But since the New Right (embodied in the personages of Anita Bryant and Phyllis Schlafly) calls up images ranging from god and state to America, apple pie and motherhood in support of its cause, it seems legitimate to rebut them using some of the same concepts.

Ideally, America's government is a mandate by the majority. Nevertheless, incorporated into the Constitution, and specifically the Bill of Rights, is basic legal protection of 'minority' groups, in other words, people whose speech, action and ideas do not conform with prevailing societal norms (this, of course, excepts people who commit murders, burglary etc., since those are crimes of property, not convention). Thus, people whose sexual activity varies from the norm should not be required to accept the moral standards (i.e. tyranny) imposed by the people of St. Paul and Dade County. Additionally, it is ludicrous that Mayor Latimer claim he will accept the vote in St. Paul; the City Council should re-pass the ordinance.

Judy Taft
Boston

GCN welcomes letters and comments from our readers. Letters for publication should be typed (double-spaced), or printed neatly, and signed. If requested, your name will be withheld.

St. Paul another holocaust

Dear GCN,

The recent repeal of the gay rights ordinance in St. Paul, Minnesota reminds me of another *holocaust*. The one called McCarthy.

In 1953, during the McCarthy purge, I was released from the United States Air Force with an Undesirable Discharge for *associating with homosexuals*. Clearly a violation of my human rights under the First Amendment.

During the Hitler purge, homosexuals were forced to wear pink triangle patches and over 60,000 were sent to concentration camps and annihilated.

It is a delusion for St. Paul, Minn. to think for an instant that one can keep one's personality a blank. It is also a delusion to claim that homosexual rights is not a question of civil rights.

Self-esteem is too precious to assume heterosexual masks for the dubious benefits of passing unnoticed in a society which is, after all, as much *ours* as *theirs*.

The Constitution is for everybody — or — it's for nobody.

Thank you,

Frank Perich
New York City

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Gay Community News is looking for a part time ad sales rep to work primarily at night. 20% commission. Contact Tim or Richard at 426-4469.

vida defends 'our right to love'

To the Editor:

I'd like to comment on some criticism of OUR RIGHT TO LOVE: A Lesbian Resource Book presented by Nancy Walker in the April 22 issue of GCN.

Polly Kellogg's article, "Breaking Up," does not in any way advocate "revolving doors in the bedroom" or breaking up as a way of life. Rather, it offers insights which many lesbians have found helpful in surviving a break-up and putting this painful process into perspective.

Regrettably, the phrase, "like most male publications" appeared to characterize GCN in Jackie St. Joan's article, "A Review of Lesbian Publications." (The phrase, intended as a comparison, was ambiguous.) It is also unfortunate that GCN's financial resources were exaggerated. These were editorial slips for which both Jackie and I apologize. Each of us has a high regard for GCN and we are well aware that women play an important role in all aspects of its production.

Despite Nancy Walker's wholesale rejection of OUR RIGHT TO LOVE, based on her misinterpretation of one article and legitimate gripe about one paragraph in another, the book has met with favorable reaction from lesbians, gay men and heterosexuals around the country—and has received positive reviews in numerous publications including The Lesbian Tide, Ms. Magazine, The Library Journal, Off Our Backs, Publisher's Weekly and GCN itself.

I hope GCN's readers will examine the book and judge for themselves.

Ginny Vida
Editor, OUR RIGHT TO LOVE
New York City

NEWS EDITOR

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kyper responds

A letter to GCN:

I suppose I should feel flattered to be the object of Rudy Grillo's latest tirade (GCN, Vol. 5, No. 38). This is the second time he has so attacked my politics in the pages of GCN. By his rabid misogyny he has most eloquently confirmed the very point I had been making.

Likewise John B. Fitzgerald should face himself in a mirror before he calls other people "malcontents" (GCN, Vol. 5, No. 39). In an ill-tempered and self-contradictory letter, he disputes my account of Edward Rastellini's imprisonment and death, but he offers not one shred of evidence to contradict me. Fitzgerald guts his own argument by admitting that Rastellini's conviction was probably unconstitutional! (To demonstrate how unconstitutional, *Fag Rag* (No. 7 & 8) reprinted the transcript of his trial before Judge Roy in Suffolk Superior Court.)

I did not suggest that Rastellini was an admirable character. He wasn't. Yet he was convicted on the testimony of a fellow hustler who had the threat of imprisonment hanging over his own head, and when he reached Walpole his life was made extra hellish by guards who had spread the rumor that he was in for child-rap. My point was not to make him into a martyr, but to demonstrate the barbarity masquerading as morality in Ch. 272 of the *Massachusetts General Laws* ("Crimes against chastity, morality, decency and good order"). It can and does destroy people's lives. Mr. Fitzgerald would have us forget that fact. If we delude ourselves by ignoring the people we don't like, we play right into the hands of our oppressors.

Finally, Mark Silber was unnecessarily defensive about my comments regarding Miami (GCN, Vol. 5, No. 37). I have no criticism towards the many who did bust ass in what was probably doomed in any case to be a losing election campaign. No, I was criticizing the arrogance of imported leadership like Ethan Getto from the Bronx, whose self-congratulatory interview appeared in last August's issue of *Christopher Street*, or Jim Foster from San Francisco, who had been sponsored in Miami by David Goodstein.

John Kyper
Roxbury, MA

GCN CONTRIBUTORS

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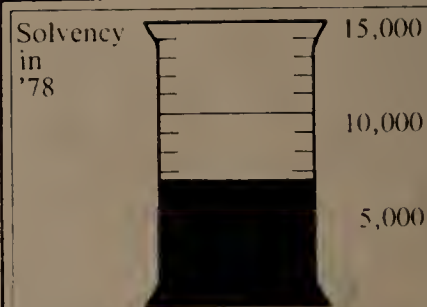
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community voices

walker's bite

Dear GCN:

I absolutely loved "A Movement Funeral" (GCN 5/6/78). It did, however, have one glaring flaw — the description of the initiation procedure into Pink Kneesocks. That procedure would better describe every meeting where Old Dykes/Tired Lesbians whatever — were confronted with tiny tots, pseudo-liberals, bleeding heart liberals, middle class drop-outs, and the politically pure at heart. It wouldn't be a fulfilling, meaningful meeting if we didn't have the likes of Eve Rose Borenstein and Joanna Hunter who write critical letters (GCN 5/6/78) criticizing Nancy Walker's critical criticism of someone else ad nauseum!

Eve's letter was so much rhetorical bullshit and Hunter's was phony in its false praise. Hunter obviously lives in a hermetically sealed vacuum if she doesn't know that teenagers are brats no matter how much we may love them. Being a brat is not an irreversible situation. Walker didn't call them Nazi war criminals! One thing is to be said for Walker. She is not a phony; opinionated, yes, but not false.

If you had to be pushed around by thuggy cops and put up with the degrading bullying of working class men because your business depended on it, then perhaps you would be more honest with yourself and the rest of the world.

Walker is probably more tolerant than most. I've been deafened by her bark, but have never seen her bite even draw blood.

Sincerely,

Sheri Barden
Boston, MA

bicyclist attacked

Dear GCN:

While riding my bicycle down Cambridge Street following the normal flow of traffic, obeying all traffic laws, I was stopped by two men who appeared to have been drinking. Before I approached them they were walking in traffic shouting obscenities at passing motorists and blocking my path. My only course of action was to slow down in order to safely pass their senseless blockade. I was then called variously insulting names, "fag," "queer," "homo." Why beat around a dead bush! It's always best to be specific and insults ain't. What is important, however, is that my physical well-being was endangered. This all happened in front of the Cambridge Street side of the Holiday Inn and that intersection.

After I was able to free myself they continued the chase into the intersection where I was again stopped (I have a single speed bicycle). At this moment I became aware of the license plate that one of the men was waving, threatening me. At that instant I defended myself with my cable lock. They withdrew for a moment, giving me enough time to escape and continue my ride, only to watch the harmless plate become a dangerous projectile. I then sought refuge at the Beacon Hill Gulf Station where I asked the employee (an acquaintance) on duty to call the police. One of the two men chasing me was an employee at that same gas station. The employee and manager both told me that he worked there! When the manager arrived on the scene he moved me and my bicycle out of the station. The two men at this time moved toward me from their visible position across the street. I informed the manager that they had been chasing me and that they were totally irrational. He didn't want to get involved. Nor did the rest of the world for a brief time. The two men pounced on me, cutting my face and legs and chipping my upper left molar.

So, what will be done? Who will testify on my behalf? And what laws are there that protect the innocent? To be honest, Boston has the worst roads in regard to surface conditions, not to mention motorists.

I have to get involved because I am aware of the frustrations that drive activists back into 'benign neglect, I don't want to get involved.' I was beaten up on Cambridge Street in front of many witnesses!

I once had a course in social psychology that used inactivity as a reinforcer: "An old woman with a broken hip laid for several hours on the sidewalk of New York's Fifth Avenue unaided." Each person that passed her without notice reinforced the inactivity of the next.

The damage is done, my glasses are a twisted remembrance of an ugly experience that could have been my last.

John Reape
Boston

St. Paul vote frightening

To the Editor,

Attention America! On Wed. April 26, 1978, a group of citizens in St. Paul, Minn., voted to take away from another group of American Citizens (Homosexuals) their Constitutional Civil Rights and liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution.

If it is Homosexuals whose rights are being taken away today, whose will be taken away tomorrow and the next day?

The prospects are frightening!

Moses Bradford
Boston, MA

parallels between jews and gays

Dear GCN,

Like myself, perhaps you spent four nights during the week of April 16th watching the TV program, "Holocaust". In the course of those 9½ hours, I found myself making frequent parallels between the experience of our Jewish brothers/sisters and ourselves as gay persons.

We, too, are an oppressed people! We live in a country and society which extols freedom as its greatest asset and, no doubt, many of us believe that what happened in Nazi Germany cannot happen in America today. The Jews in Germany felt the same way — it could not happen in such a cultured and educated society. Many did not recognize the warning signals — leaders advocating prejudice and violence, legislation restricting rights, denial of citizenship and, finally, denial of Jews as being human.

Are there not parallels? We have the Anita Bryants, the John Birchers and the social and religious leaders who support and promote prejudice. True, we have our victories in legislation but experience many more defeats. We have negative propaganda identifying us as child molesters, degenerates and corrupters of the family unit and, particularly, of the young. Are these not parallels?

I do not seek to belittle the unique and terrible event which was the "Holocaust", but I do believe that we have much to learn from this event and must be vigilant against such a possibility occurring again. We, also, were persecuted under the Nazis. My fear is that we have yet to see the backlash of Middle America against ourselves as gay people. In the midst of rapid change in the structure of society and its morals, the majority often seek a particular group onto which to vent its anger at what is happening — a group that will serve as a panacea for all the ills that accompany change. What better group but ourselves? To be against blacks is to be a bigot; to be against Jews is to be anti-Semitic but to be against gay people is viewed and extolled as moral, just and American.

We have much to share and learn from our Jewish brothers/sisters. Like them, we live in a society but are not part of the mainstream. As such, we are often a target. We may seek acceptance through legislation but that is no guarantee of freedom. Our strength is that we are not easily recognizable — some of us are visible but most are not. It is, therefore, difficult to attack us en masse. This is also our weakness — we lack unity and leaders who can direct us and support our cause.

Our Jewish brothers/sisters have survived by a faith in their God and in themselves and by supporting one another. They have a strong sense of themselves as a people. We must learn to do the same. We also must believe in ourselves and in one another. We can support one another by responding to the needs of other gay people, by breaking down the barriers that separate lesbians and gay men, by supporting establishments of business owned by gay people or by people who support our cause.

Politically, we may align ourselves with other minorities seeking equality. However, we must never depend too strongly on their support. If a crisis should come, as in Nazi Germany, we will have fewer supporters than our Jewish brothers/sisters did. We will have no one but ourselves, and, perhaps, God!

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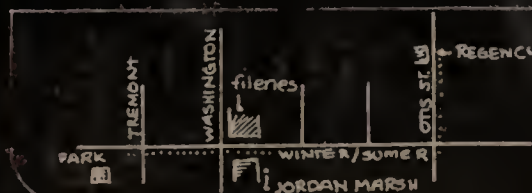
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City of Boston Holds Hearing on Re-opening of Other Side

BOSTON — Boston's Bay Village section would once again be the site of a sprawling evening entertainment complex if an application presently under advisement by the Licensing Division of the mayor's office is approved. Licensing Division chief Richard J. Sinnott held a public hearing on May 3 on the application of James K. Olson of Andover for Blackgammon, Inc., to use the building at 78-90 Broadway which housed the old Nineties restaurant, PB Pub, and The Other Side.

Olson's application is for theatrical exhibitions, public amusements, plays, live productions, movies, dancing, and a pinball arcade. The building at 78-90 Broadway is presently closed, although it still possesses a valid liquor license (midnight closing). Francis J. DiMento, attorney for Henry Vara and Profile Lounges, Inc., holder of the license, has told the Boston Licensing Board that the licensee expects to re-open The Other Side-PB Pub-Nineties building by June.

Under questioning from Sinnott and Licensing Division counsel William Smith, Olson said he had no idea what the hours of the proposed amusement area would be until he determined the market for it. Olson also said that he had no background in the entertainment field; he is reportedly a former officer of the Harbor National Bank of Boston.

June McCourt, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, testified against the application on behalf of her organization. "The physical location of 78-90 Broadway is not and never has been, in our opinion, an appropriate site for an entertainment license," said McCourt, who noted that the city curtailed the hours of Jacques and The Other Side two years ago only after months of hearings concerning noise and violence in the area.

The Boston Police Department also opposed the application. Both Deputy Supt. Anthony J. Leone, commander of Area B, and Det. Sgt. Stephen DeLosh, commander of the Vice Control Unit, predicted the revival of a "Combat Zone" in the Bay Village should the application be granted.

Bay Village realtor and resident Larry Cisco, who has testified in support of Jacques and The Other Side in past licensing hearings, spoke in opposition to Olson's application, to the surprise of some Bay Village residents. Cisco said he also spoke on behalf of the area's absentee landlords who feared an increase in crime and decline in property values should an amusement area open on Broadway.

It was Rep. Barney Frank, however, who crystallized the arguments against the application. Frank attacked the applicant for failing to specify what he intends to do on the premises. "In six years of representing this neighborhood, I have never seen anyone so uncooperative," Frank said that the

Bay Village is "totally inappropriate" for a coin-operated amusement arcade, particularly one which could operate 24 hours.

Frank also accused the applicant of attempting to manipulate the city's regulatory structure through misleading statements. Olson's application is before the Licensing Division of the mayor's office, which handles single-day, movie, and special entertainment licenses. It is the three-member, state-appointed, Boston Licensing Board, however, which regulates the hours of licensed premises and issues licenses for daily entertainment, liquor and common victuallers (food). Divided responsibility for the licensing would make it difficult to resolve complaints, he charged.

In addition, Frank produced a copy of the May 4 issue of *Esplanade*, and pointed out advertisements indicating the re-opening of The Other Side. He also noted "help wanted" ads for a club called "Encore" and said he had had complained to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination about the ads because they asked for "gay white male" applicants only.

Under questioning from Michael DeMarco, a former police department lawyer retained by the Bay Village Neighborhood Association to represent them, Olson stated that while he is presently the sole owner of Blackgammon, Inc., he would expect to have other shareholders in the corporation should the application be approved. DeMarco also produced documents from U.S. Bankruptcy Court showing that Olson had entered into a concession agreement with Henry Vara, president of Profile Lounges, Inc., to allow Vara to occupy the building.

It was brought out that food and liquor would not be served in the proposed entertainment area at the PB Pub/Other Side section of the building, but that Profile Lounges, Inc., would re-open for business at The Nineties at the southern end of the same building. Willie J. Davis, counsel for Olson, disputed DeMarco's suggestion that the application was a "clandestine" effort by Henry Vara to reinstitute an expanded Other Side by skirting licensing procedures. "Mr. DeMento [longtime attorney for Vara] and Mr. Vara have nothing to do with this hearing," said Davis.

Olson denied knowing anything about the advertisements for white employees or anything else about the "Encore" club, though he did not comment concerning the ads suggesting the re-opening of The Other Side.

Sinnott closed the hearing after two hours of testimony and said he would take the application under advisement. If the Olson application is approved, the Boston Licensing Board will probably hold hearings of its own, according to BLB Commissioner Jon C. Straight, because of the possible conflict of hours.

support from the Conservative Caucus, and Waltham official Markham Lyons. State Rep. Michael Connolly (D-Roslindale) and Hampden County Register of Deeds John Pierce Lynch are the only other announced candidates for the Democratic nomination, although several others are expected to announce shortly — including Cambridge liberal activist Ruth Morganthau, and State Rep. Thomas Mahoney (D-Cambridge).

NOBLE

Continued from Page 1

GCN spoke with House Majority Whip George Keverian later Thursday evening, who said that most of the House leadership did not attend the Noble announcement because of a previous commitment to attend a fundraiser in honor of Rep. Robert Bohigian (D-Worcester).

Brooke is being opposed in the Republican primary by local journalist Avi Nelson, who is receiving national

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Justice Robert Bonin Formally Charged with Misconduct

BOSTON — Superior Court Chief Justice Robert M. Bonin was formally charged on April 27 with nine violations of the state's Supreme Judicial Court Rules for judicial conduct. Six of the nine charges involve Bonin's attendance at an April 5 lecture by Gore Vidal to benefit the Boston/Boise Committee, a local gay rights organization.

The Committee on Judicial Responsibility, which reports to the SJC, hired former American Bar Association president Robert W. Meserve and Boston lawyer Mark I. Wolf to conduct the investigation into Bonin's conduct. The charges against him include:

- That he violated three sections of the Code by attending the fundraising lecture because, they charged, some of the money was to be used for the 24 defendants in the so-called "Revere trials." [Officials of the Boston/Boise Committee have repeatedly stated that the money raised will not be used to defend any of the accused men.]

- That Bonin knew in advance that the Revere cases would be discussed.

- That statements concerning the status and merits of the cases, and statements casting doubt on the ability of the defendants to receive a fair trial were made at the meeting.

- That Bonin engaged in "friendly conversation" with Vidal after the lecture and knew that resulting publicity "would give the appearance that he endorsed the criticism . . . of the

administration of justice and endorsed the raising of funds for the benefit of defendants."

- That Bonin lied in a press statement on April 7 when he said that there was no reference to the Revere cases at the lecture and when he said he did not learn of the purpose of the Boston/Boise Committee until the next day.

- That Bonin pressured his administrative assistant, Francis K. Orfanello, to falsely state that Orfanello did not tell him in advance about the purpose of the lecture, though Orfanello says that he did. Orfanello testified that Bonin said to him, "Frank, it's important that I did not know that the money was for the defense of those defendants. It's important that I only knew it was for gays or gay people."

The three other charges against Bonin involve his receiving a leased car and money from an ex-client insurance company, hiring the step-daughter of the insurance company's director as an employee of the Superior Court, and using employees of the Superior Court for private legal services.

Bonin refused to resign and has requested that the SJC hold hearings on the charges. He has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

The Boston/Boise Committee has stated that Bonin was not invited to the Vidal lecture. In addition, the committee has continued to maintain that its purpose is not to defend any individuals but rather to protect the

interests of the gay community in the face of a "witch-hunt" and media hysteria.

Meanwhile, one Boston gay club has already decided to come to Judge

Bonin's aid. Gary Dotterman, owner of "The Bar" at 252 Boylston St., scheduled a benefit for the judge on May 7 in honor of the judge's freedom of association.



photo by Ken Rabb

BOSTON — On April 27, some 75 to 100 people demonstrated against Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Byrne. The march, called by the Boston/Boise Committee, occurred while the DA attended a re-election fundraising event inside historic Faneuil Hall. The fund-raiser was organized for Byrne by former Chief Justice Walter McLaughlin. The \$50-a-head cocktail party was attended by a number of public officials and prominent Boston attorneys.

Boston/Boise organizers kept the line of march moving and organized as the people attending the fund-raiser entered Faneuil Hall. Leaflets explaining the action were handed out.

The committee has issued five demands in the wake of the arrests in the so-called Revere "sex-ring" and the entrapment of gay men at the Boston Public Library. Boston/Boise has called for an "end to the witchhunt against gay people in Boston;" retraction of "media lies" and assurances of "fair coverage;" establishment of "facts in all cases against gay men" and protection of the "rights of men and boys;" fair and open trials, and an investigation of the "origins, links and timing of the indictments and arrests of all these gay men."

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Organizing Campus Gays Aside from the Degree

We at GCN were not impressed (to put it mildly) with the article describing gays on campus that recently appeared in the New York Times Magazine. To set about correcting such distortions, we invite all our readers to submit feature stories about campus gay organizations and the people who started such groups and who now keep them alive.

If the response is large enough, we will devote an entire features section to the topic. Send stories to Features Editor, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

By Ollie Taylor

One of the co-curricular projects I was engaged in at Florida State University in Tallahassee was working with the Alliance for Gay Awareness. It was an interesting, troubling and often trying experience.

The Alliance had its source in two former organizations. The earliest, a gay liberation front, was suppressed by a former president of the university in the early 70s. Another, called the People's Coalition for Gay Rights, was formed through the tireless efforts of Jerry Maxham in 1972. Maxham, also known for his Marxist political views, had to threaten court action to get university recognition. Among its most noteworthy events was a speaking appearance by D.C. gay activist Frank Kameny and the picketing of the local newspaper, *The Tallahassee Democrat*, for the suppression of a series of articles on gay athletes. In addition, a number of social activities were sponsored by the group. By late 1975, the membership dwindled and it became defunct as interests waned and personality conflicts took their toll.

It was in the summer of 1976 that a group of concerned gays began to express feelings that an effort was needed to revive the Coalition. The steering committee for this, in large measure, came from FSU's Gay Rap Group. Another person and I had led this group for about a year. A meeting to set up a workshop for the drafting of a constitution took place Independence evening on the Bicentennial. Later that fall the name was changed after some procedural wrangling to the Alliance for Gay Awareness (AGA). This was done in an effort to create a new identity and reduce memories of a link to Marxism and the personality battles characteristic of the Coalition. A few former PCGR members are still active in the AGA. As for myself, I attended a couple of PCGR events in its waning days.

The revived AGA, after some organizational problems, caught on quickly. Initially, forty members attended meetings. This settled down to about twenty later. After a flurry, a core of activists and a number of lesser participants continued on. However, much was accomplished in that period up through September, 1977. I left Tallahassee to enroll in the doctoral program in political science at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

There were recognition problems. The GLF and PCGR had overcome these obstacles. Funding from the student government met minimal opposition. One of our assets was the willingness of many members to work hard to raise our own funds. The chief devices were car washes (even before the disco hit) and flea markets. These activities provided a base of common participation and a feeling that we served a good purpose. However, knowing the unpopularity of our

cause, we used "Tri-Lambda" for our off-campus fund raisers. We feared public hostility and ridicule. One must understand that Tallahassee is extremely conservative relative to other areas such as Boston. It must be added that other areas are even more hostile than Tallahassee.

Some of the most effective activities were our speaking and interviewing engagements. With assistance from faculty members, sessions with AGA members forming panels were set in a number of classes. These usually took place in social work, sociology and psychology courses. Some were grateful at having a chance to relate to gay people. A few were adverse and some had mixed feelings.

David Seibert, our first director, worked tirelessly. Often, he wasn't supported as much as he should have been. Yet, good campus news coverage, support of student government officials and a core of a half dozen activists were able to keep things going. In fact, AGA members were and often continue to be members of student governmental units.

We held dances with up to two hundred people, from on and off campus, in attendance. We held smaller excursions into rural areas of the Great Bend. (This is a popular nickname for the part of Florida in which FSU is located.) The success of these events was usually a result of a few tending to organizational details.

On the political front, there was the picketing of an appearance last spring of Anita Bryant. She was being served, ironically enough, by a gay waiter in a downtown restaurant.

More importantly, Jean Smith of Parents of Gays and I myself appeared before a legislative committee to argue against anti-gay marriage and adoption bills. We weren't successful. The bills passed overwhelmingly. But at least our feelings were made known. Dave Seibert and several others prepared exhibits for the legislators. However, with a few exceptions, the lawmakers were rather rude and indifferent to our attempts at persuasion.

Although the AGA is the largest, most diverse and, locally, most well-known of gay related organizations in Tallahassee, there are a number of others that have important specific objectives. AGA and these units cooperate both formally and informally. The Tallahassee community is such that one can participate in all the groups without overcommitment of time and energy. Several persons, including myself, have done just this and offered our individual suggestions towards improvements for all in the gay community.

On a more personal level, the price of involvement hasn't been without costs. My coming out has been extremely gradual and in stages. Much of my participation was behind the scenes for a number of years prior to the more recent "up-front" involvement. Even then, the environment within which my participation took place was a controlled one, i.e. media, classes and organizations. Only the closest and most observant of persons know of my sexuality. But many know how I feel about gay issues in general.

The reason for this curious dichotomy or two-level approach is the fact that I've been personally constrained by persons who aren't sympathetic to gay rights or even to our existence. A number of examples could be cited. One is the church I belong to. Churches of Christ are socially con-

Continued on Page 14

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Crisis in the Classroom: Lesbian and Gay Teachers in New England

By Eric Rogers

One of the most controversial occupations for a lesbian or gay man to choose in New England is the teaching profession. Throughout New England gay people have no protection against dismissal due to their sexuality. Despite some recent gains, the United States today still has a legal system that offers virtually no protection to teachers who are not heterosexual. It is surprising that so many lesbians and gay men hold teaching positions and continue to join the profession. Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers, has estimated the New York City schools contain many more lesbian and gay teachers than the estimated 10% of the population. Considering the possibilities of dismissal and the accompanying inhibition of lifestyle, gay people must have good reasons for becoming teachers.

The major motivation of lesbian and gay teachers for entering the field of education is the desire to work with children. In this way, gays are no different than straights. Since the actual work involved in being a teacher is educating young people, it is not surprising that people who enjoy young people enter the profession. One gay man who works as an English teacher in the Boston Public Schools explained that he received a great deal of satisfaction from teaching. "I like teaching kids and helping them work through the problems of growing up," he said. "Because of the confusion and conflict I felt while I was coming out, I find it easy to empathize with the problems that children face."

Many gay teachers remember feelings of intense isolation and confusion from their youth and are committed to helping young people gain confidence in themselves. Also, the process of coming out as a lesbian or gay man is a process of self-definition similar to the adolescent identity crises that most teenagers experience. While all teachers should be motivated by a desire to make children happy with themselves, gay teachers as adults are actively involved in a similar struggle for the right to their own identity. The belief in the integrity of the individual will give a lesbian the strength to live her life as she chooses and also help young people forge their own identity.

The schedule that most school teachers work is another incentive for many gay people. If they have to remain all year in the classroom, at least there is a two month summer vacation in which to travel, relax, and, as one lesbian teacher stated, "let my hair down and be myself." Many teachers find that their daily 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. schedules allow them evenings free to do political work or go out to the bars. The salary also, while not comparable to big business salaries, is certainly large enough to support a single person in a fairly comfortable manner. The material conveniences of the profession, while

Gay teachers must realize they have nothing to be ashamed of . . . The central contradiction of their job is that, as teachers they are committed to fighting ignorance and prejudice, yet they live in a society that prefers to show young people a very distorted, limited picture of reality.

not enough to fully displace the risks, appeal greatly to many teachers, gay or straight.

While the reasons for entering the teaching profession do not seem different for gay or straight people, certain factors primarily affect gay people. Some people believe that gay people, realizing that they may not become biological parents, want to fulfill some kind of "parenting instinct". While psychiatrists and sociologists feel very differently on this subject, more than one gay teacher has expressed this motivation. A lesbian who teaches second grade in a private school looks on her class as her "substitute family", since she believes she will never have children of her own. "My mothering needs are being fulfilled through teaching," she explained. "In this way I'm able to give more to the children than many straight teachers. I could never teach and have my own kids. Teaching is too draining an experience for me. I give my class everything that I can." Whether or not this lesbian teacher's feelings are actually her "instinct" is irrelevant. What seems important is that she is fully committed to effectively giving her energies to her class. And that is what she is being paid to do.

Despite their enthusiasm for teaching, all teachers are faced with inhibitions placed on their lifestyles because they are considered "examples" for their students. New England teachers early in this century were expected to be chaste. When a woman married, she would leave teaching behind. Proper Bostonians did not want their children to be working with someone who was having sex. Within recent years teachers have been dismissed for being pregnant and unmarried, living with a person of the opposite sex outside of marriage, and for having a friend of the opposite sex as an apartment guest overnight.

Gay teachers are faced with a greater inhibition in lifestyle. If their sexuality becomes public knowledge they can legally be fired. Living incognito as a straight person may be easy for some teachers, but it does take its toll. Lesbian and gay teachers are plagued by many feelings because of this deception they must live convincingly in school. The three major problems that gay teachers experience in their daily teaching activities are fear, isolation, and guilt. While these feelings are not easily overcome, gay teachers have found some ways of alleviating their distress and anxiety.

FEAR & PARANOIA IN THE CLASSROOM

The basic fear that every gay teacher must learn to live with is the fear of someone learning that they are gay and of a subsequent dismissal from teaching. This is certainly a valid fear throughout this country, except in certain progressive areas such as New York City and San Francisco where public school boards have issued statements supporting gay teachers. Often teachers are fired without even being "proven" to be homosexual. The mere rumor of homosexuality is enough to send a community into a panic. While a teacher may not be fired because of a rumor, the students or the community may react with such hostility that the teacher is forced to resign.

One first year teacher in the Boston suburbs left teaching because of the abuse of the students. Speaking of the experience, he explained, "I was unaware of how demanding and abusive the students could be. The word 'fagot' was applied to everyone and everything by the students, but I found myself very upset when the term was directed towards me. My contract was renewed for the next year but I decided not to return. I had no control over my situation there and the experience left many emotional scars." Gay male teachers seem quite vulnerable to this kind of harassment from students. Another teacher, after 17 years of teaching, resigned from a position in a high school in central Massachusetts because of the hostility of the students to what they perceived as his homosexuality. He is now working in a Junior High School, where the students are younger and less concerned with the issue.

The valid fears that face gay teachers are dismissal, public scandal, and threats of violence. Even today teachers are literally run out of town in rural New England because of rumors of their homosexuality. Blackmail, while a rare occurrence, still takes place. One teacher in Connecticut is currently being threatened with exposure by a fellow teacher if he doesn't pay \$200 a month. While he does not intend to pay the blackmailer, he is under intense pressure to resolve the situation, perhaps by resigning from his position as a junior high school gym teacher.

Teachers attempt to minimize their vulnerability to accusations in whatever way possible. Most teachers pretend to be straight, bringing a close woman friend to faculty parties, or "switching-pronouns" when discussing the latest vacation. In one school on the north shore a lesbian and a gay man have convinced their students and fellow faculty members that they are "involved". Unfortunately this kind of deception has ramifications because it is not pleasant to lie about one's life. Many teachers describe feelings of guilt accompanying the masquerade.

Another way teachers minimize their fears of being "found out" is by carefully policing their actions and mannerisms. One gay man explained, "I try to come across as a masculine teacher, not affected in any way." A lesbian who teaches history in a suburban high school keeps her hair long. "If I wore my hair the way I'd really like to, they'd take one look at me and say 'So, Ms. R_____ is a dyke!' I make the sacrifice, but it sure helps me keep my job in the long run.

It seems that the teachers who experience the least amount of gay-baiting are the masculine men and the feminine women. One gay man brings his lover to faculty parties but, because he affects a macho pose, his students do not harass him. Another gay teacher in the same school in western Massachusetts is constantly mocked by the students because he does not appear masculine. The students are threatened by what they perceive as

"If my sexual relationships make other people uncomfortable, so uncomfortable that I'm considered sick and not capable of teaching, I don't want to be in that situation any more."

weakness or gentleness in men as much as they are threatened by gayness.

Some teachers describe feelings of paranoia, fears that are not rational, of things that are highly unlikely to occur. One gay teacher will not acknowledge that his lover is a man when he is speaking on the phone. Perhaps this kind of fear is justified in a small town with a local switchboard, but this teacher lives and works in Cambridge. A lesbian pre-school teacher will not go to women's bars in Boston because of her fears of being discovered. Other teachers describe strange habits, such as closing the curtains before kissing,

locking their bedroom door, or avoiding a visit to Provincetown. When valid fears run deep, it is easy for a person to become paranoid and irrational. The pressures that gay teachers face can easily get out of control.

ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

Because of the risks involved in honest communication with other faculty members, gay teachers often feel alone in their schools. While one's personal life is usually kept out of the classroom, the faculty room is the place where teachers share information about their social lives. The faculty room becomes the site for most of the self-denial gay teachers experience. One lesbian phys. ed. teacher feels "the faculty room is the place I most like to avoid, yet I end up in there everyday. I have to listen to all these silly women discuss their boyfriends and their new spring outfits and I have to pretend I did nothing over the weekend except my spring cleaning. They all think there must be something wrong with me since I don't spend all my time talking about men."

The irony of the situation for most gay teachers is that, while they need more support from others because of the fears they are experiencing, they are unable to get the support because they cannot share their real life situations. Gay teachers are totally alone — isolated from the parents, administration, and other teachers. Teaching becomes a difficult experience and gay teachers find themselves moving towards a schizoid life.

The best thing that many teachers find in overcoming this isolation is to find another teacher they can trust enough to share their real life with. Having one friend on the faculty seems to make a world of difference. Having someone in the school know that you are a gay person seems to help validate a teacher's life experience. It may be even better when gay teachers in the same school discover each other. One group of five gay teachers in a Boston high school find that their daily coffee breaks together made them feel like other teachers in the school. They can get together and honestly share their lives, then return to the classroom. Two gay men in Maine, both married, met each other at a local bar and are now lovers. They'd taught in the same school for over ten years without knowing each other was gay.

Gay people working in the same school do not always get along. Sometimes there is a strong fear that, if they are seen together, students or administrators will conclude that they are both gay. This is especially true for gay men who are not interested in appearing "macho". Often masculine gay men avoid these teachers because of fears of being judged as gay also. Two lesbians who teach in the same high school do not talk in school even though they are friends outside of school. The pres-



Photo by Mark Lipman

ures on them are so great that they feel they cannot take the risk.

THE GUILT OF DECEPTION

Most lesbian and gay teachers seem to experience some degree of guilt because of their denial of their sexuality. This guilt is caused by many things — feelings of lying to gay teenagers, the negating of a lover, the failure to be strong enough to change careers. Every time pronouns are switched a light flashes out a sign reading — "You're lying!" Since in this society we are brought up to feel guilty about lying, gay teachers experience great distress and anxiety.

Even militant gay teachers become overly defensive when discussing the reasons for their deception with their students. Often the teacher rationalizes that "kids at this level are extremely fragile with the subject of sex and I'm not sure how they would handle it." Other teachers believe that one's personal life is not the students' business. One teacher described his attitude towards his deception and then concluded, "I like to feel that there are certain values that I can teach my kids without having to outline it in clear-cut terms for them. I feel that it's unfair to try to indoctrinate kids with a particular slant on life — their options should be open." Teachers are reluctant to say that they don't feel good about their predicament but, at present, it's the best they can do.

High school teachers in particular are open to feelings of guilt because they sometimes see gay teenagers in a state of confusion and feel too threatened to help them. In this situation their guilt comes from a projection of their own youth — they were once confused teens also, without adult guidance or role models. Most gay teachers find it too threatening to come to the aid of a gay student. If the student is ostracized by her/his peers the teacher fears similar harassment. In this way gay teachers are kept isolated from even the students who need them most of all.

The gay teachers who survive the teaching experience with the least anxiety are those who go undetected by their colleagues and students. These are usually the "straight" appearing teachers. Popular teachers also escape some of the distress. Administration is more likely to overlook a rumor if teacher is held in high esteem by the students and the community. It is not

uncommon for a small town to know that their school has a gay teacher but it is not discussed because that teacher is popular and, if it were discussed, a dismissal would have to be called for.

Teachers who are not activists are also more likely to remain in the profession. While some urban and private schools in New England have become more liberal in their attitudes towards gay teachers, no school administrator wants to have a gay activist publicly talking out about gay rights. The feeling of many gay teachers is that, even if their principal knows that they are gay, as long as the general community doesn't find out, there are not going to be any problems.

Unfortunately, conditions in New England are not favorable enough to allow gay teachers to continue in their teaching careers. As one lesbian special education teacher stated, "If my sexual relationships make other people uncomfortable, so uncomfortable that I'm considered sick and not capable of teaching, I don't want to be in that situation anymore. The discomfort that it's causing me on an emotional and psychic level is not something that I want to put myself through again."

But some lesbians and gay men in education are staying on and fighting to change things. The risks involved are great and the chances for success, while increasing, are still not good. What teachers need most is support, particularly from other gay teachers. The fears and isolation are so great that, even though most gay teachers realize that there are others out there, they are too afraid to look for support.

Gay teachers must realize they have nothing to be ashamed of. They are not evil, or wrong, or ill. The central contradiction of their job is that, as teachers they are committed to fighting ignorance and prejudice, yet they live in a society that prefers to show young people a very distorted, limited picture of reality. The tension that arises from this contradiction is the burden that a lesbian or gay teacher must carry. Perhaps someday our society will permit teachers to be as human as their students. Until that time, lesbian and gay teachers must continue to live with the fears of exposure and learn to minimize their isolation and guilt. As one young lesbian teacher believes, "Maybe by the time I look like a spinster school marm I'll be able to tell my kids that I'm not alone. I'm a lesbian and I'm in love and no textbook can tell me that's wrong."

One teacher in Connecticut is currently being threatened with exposure by a fellow teacher if he doesn't pay \$200 a month. While he does not intend to pay the blackmailer, he is under intense pressure to resolve the situation, perhaps by resigning from his position as a junior high school gym teacher.

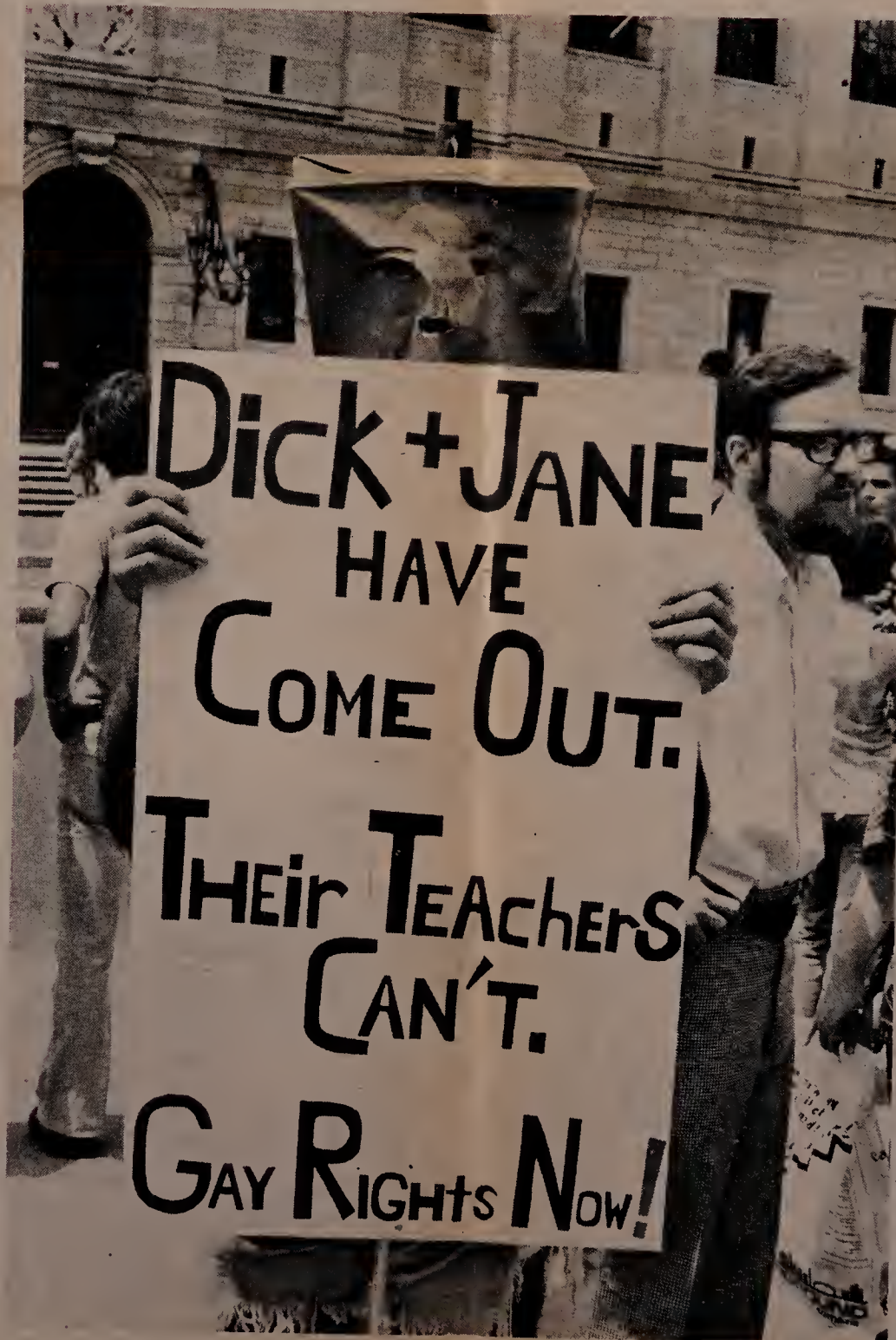


Photo by Neil Miller

Good-Time Music Times Three

By Pat M. Kuras

It's springtime in Boston and you're seeing them everywhere. At abandoned storefronts and near subway entrances, the city's street musicians have resurfaced after the long bitter winter. They appear singly or in groups, plucking guitars, banjos and fiddles; their instrument cases gape wide, aching for your nickels and dimes.

My faggot friend and I have chosen this warm April day to play hooky from our grueling factory jobs. We see the lone woman street singer — a rare breed. As we approach, she is singing an ode to the "Lady of the Moon" with pure lesbian sensitivity. My friend and I grin to each other and plunk ourselves down cross-legged on the cement.



Ellie Lee and Ellie Cutler

photo by Angela Russo

The brown-haired woman in the plaid shirt and dungarees ends her song and precariously stems her cigarette above the top fret of her guitar. Her audience (excluding my friend and me) is an entourage of close friends, and she sends one of them scurrying for a bottle of Orange Crush.

The woman musician is Donna Price and she has been around Boston's gay community for a number of years. Born in Quincy, she has traveled extensively, yet Boston remains the one place she calls home. She brags good-naturedly of being "Lambda's first female youth". Her aim is not political, though she does support gay rights. She has sung at Gay Pride rallies, and most recently opened Gore Vidal's lecture some weeks ago.

Donna is basically a self-taught musician, having had "three guitar lessons at 12, four voice lessons at 20". In retrospect, she muses that "seven is a good number". Her first professional job, of all places, was at the Watergate Mall in Georgetown, D.C. Coincidentally, it was just after the infamous break-in. Donna sang in a shopping mall and was paid "\$20 a night and two free drinks as long as [she made] all the people happy."

Street singing has a strong appeal for Donna. She describes it as "a space I had to come through to learn", and she is appreciative of her street audience. "They listen well," she says. Donna now experiences a conflict over the question of playing on the streets or in clubs. She explains: "On the street, people listen because they want to; they will stop their whole schedule. You catch people, you snatch them. At a club, it is pre-arranged."

The streets hold a certain power for the performer, and Donna finds that she is able to control and choose her audience. "For a long time I did blatant lesbian songs. I was doing my usual dyke stuff and noticed a change in the crowd." Her audience splintered — the straight businessmen and double-knit-clad secretaries began to disappear. Eventually, by using her dyke repertoire, she found herself playing mainly to gatherings of women and straight kids.

The ability to choose your audience cannot take place in a club. The audience is firmly set. They are coming specifically to see you and they have their own expectations of the performance. Donna readily admits that "it's a trauma" for her to play before a club crowd.

Clubs have not always welcomed Donna. For Boston's first licensed (Badge #13) woman street singer, the

transition to club performer has not been an easy one. One club owner snidely remarked that Donna was "just another kid off the street with no talent whatsoever". Anyone who has witnessed Donna perform will immediately know how erroneous that statement is. Such criticism prompted Donna to come to her own defense in a proud song appropriately titled, "Street Singer".

Donna is capable of giving a diverse performance. On that April day when I found her on Park Street, she sang "Mr. Bojangles" and later countered with a bluesy Janis Joplin number. She did a moving rendition of Tim Hardin's "Reason to Believe". In "It Ain't Easy Growing Up When Everyone Else Is Straight," a whimsical tune written by local songwriter, Nancy Ryan, Donna aptly captures the doldrums of the teenaged dyke who tries ever-so-hard to dress like a lady and please Mama: "Though I rolled up my hair and dabbed on some cream/I walked around feelin' like an old drag queen".

Donna Price "most definitely" sees herself recording in the future. She's a talented woman with plenty to say. As for future performances, she speculates that "there's a lot in the works".

In her twenty-one years, Donna has "pushed [herself] through a lot of lessons." She has reached a point where she is concerned with herself solely as an artist. Her philosophy — "I have to bleed for me first. I'm an artist, not a political person at all. I'm not into changing the world or ruling it, just enlightening it. That's my goal. I want to make the world feel a little bit more." With her musical talents, Donna has created an entertaining medium for accomplishing this vision.

Meanwhile, at a local women's bar, a brand new duo was making one of its first appearances. Ellie Lee and Ellie Cutler have been singing individually for a long time and have just recently come together as an act. Ellie Lee admits to a preference for playing to lesbians. The diversity in their audiences is evident in their short track record — two dates at Jacqui Mac's Club 76 and a St. Patrick's Day stint at the Blarney Stone.

Aside from sharing the same first name, Lee and Cutler both own springer spaniels. Musically, the similarities continue. Both women are adept at acoustic guitar, bass and banjo, and have thorough musical backgrounds.

Ellie Lee is originally from Philadelphia, and received schooling in Ohio. She played with a band, and eventually came to Boston where she has spent some time performing as a single before teaming up with Cutler.

Ellie Cutler attended school in Utah. A music major, she is originally from Newton, Mass., and has spent two years teaching music in Connecticut. Before pairing with Lee, she was in "a band with two guys playing straight Irish music".

In addition to her other musical instruments, Ellie Cutler is also a fine fiddler. Indeed, in their instrumental pieces, Lee and Cutler capture a mood reminiscent of nights hosted by the Deadly Nightshade, a fine women's band many long-time Bostonians will remember. Cutler and Lee's instrumentals are country-styled, plucky numbers, setting many a toe tapping. In their vocals, they offer excellent harmony.

Lee and Cutler (For the sake of clarity, and with no intentions of appearing harsh or impersonal, I will use

such unlikely artists as Martin Mull, the Kingston Trio, and Dan Hicks and his Hot Licks. Also, a sprinkling of Beatles and other '60's music is thrown in, all adding up to a pleasant mixture.

Lee claims that they both "draw from personal experience to write songs." It is curious to note how we tend to view ourselves as distinct individuals, then a performer such as Lee or Cutler touches on some basic human emotion and, with a prickle of *deja vu*, we realize we are not all that extraordinarily different. Several of their original compositions left me either pained or amused, knowing that I could relate to their lyrics. Cutler's and Lee's lines often encompass the



Donna Price

photo by Mike Thompson

spectrum of feelings generated in human entanglements. Though their music is obviously addressed to lesbians, anyone — gay, bisexual or straight — could most likely identify with the situations in their songs.

In the song, "Happens Every Time", Cutler observes "we all have lovers that we get lost around," and with "80 East Blues", she ponders how easy it is to cling to a lover. Cutler is the vocal partner when it comes to snappy patter between songs. She has a cheeky mirth that lends itself to a hitch-hiking piece, a tune depicting college days, thumbing, drunkenness, and general irresponsibility. "Those were the days," Cutler sighed wistfully in epilogue.

Lee has a choir-boy quality in her fine soprano voice that is most rewarding in her rendition of Joni Mitchell's "River". Her version is easily more hauntingly poignant and beautiful than the original. With Lee on guitar and Cutler on banjo, the duo immortalizes Perky's, a women's bar in St. Louis. Played to the tune of "Charlie on the MBTA", "Perky's" has a rollicking fun verse ("Will we ever go straight, or out on a date?") and the story involves a lesbian who wittily turns the tables on a male chauvinist.

By far, the crowd pleaser of the night was "Florida Sunshine Girl", a ditty about You-Know-Who. Through the magic of Lee's lyrics, Anita Bryant inadvertently finds herself in a lesbian bar. ("What's a nice Florida Sunshine Girl doing at this place?/You're not here for a TV ad judging from your face.") It is a searing "tribute" to the right-wing bigot. "Anita, sit down at the bar/Let me buy you a screwdriver in honor of who you are."

Their music is "uncluttered, a pure style." Like Donna Price, Cutler and Lee stress the artistry involved in their work. They play pleasant, down-home styled, good-time music, and occasionally sneak in a message. Their aim is to let "the audience have a good time." The performers "concentrate on music and make it enjoyable." Judging from their rapport with the audience, it is apparent that Cutler and Lee have succeeded.

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Gay People in Christian Science

We will be attending the Annual Meeting of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts on Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6. We will be wearing pink triangle buttons. Please contact us at The Annual Meeting or call (212) 961-1282. 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Keep Trying.

—Mary Baker Eddy
"Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals."

Sunday, April 30, DiRocco's in Tyngsboro, Mass., sponsored a benefit for the *Gay Community News*. Beginning with a champagne brunch, the entertainment never stopped, alternating between disco and performances by the Burgandies and Patti O'Keefe. The spaghetti dinner was scrumptious (if one is to believe our photographer), and the check even more delectable.

GCN staff members were treated royally, and a large crowd kept things hopping well into the night. A raffle and door prizes added to the festivities.

Our thanks to all of our friends and readers to the north, and a special thanks to Bill O'Hara and Don DiRocco. Keep DiRocco's in mind as you travel toward the mountains this spring and summer.



Don DiRocco, Patti O'Keefe, Bill O'Hara

Campus Gays

Continued from Page 9

servative. Known gays who don't repent are rejected or expelled. This happened to two women in the form of a proclamation read after a morning service as late as the fall of 1976. There is great pressure to not even discuss homosexuality. I found this out as fellow Christians complained about my TV appearances. A number of acquaintances, otherwise pleasant and nice to know, would be frightened, upset and disrespecting if they knew my sexuality. I've had two extremely intractable and painful cases where straights, one a born-again Christian and another who admits to having been tempted to homosexual acts, have made their feelings known. This isn't good, since I get hurt the most. There has even been a gay person who has written me asking me not to write him. He fears being identified with me too closely. He fears that if he is found to be gay, he will suffer severely.

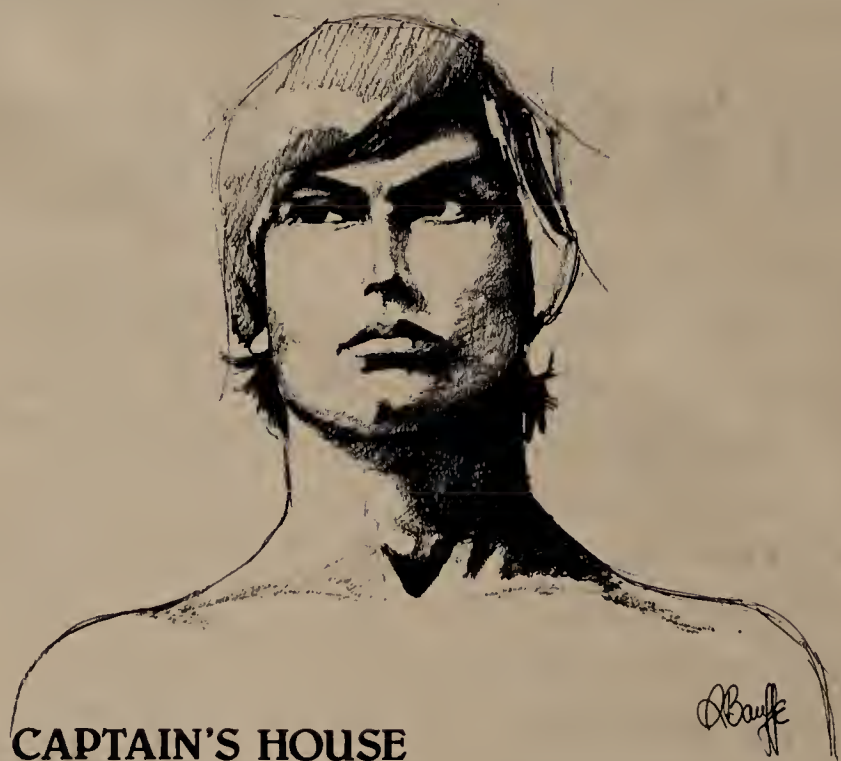
Other than these cases, I've been able to avoid, through luck, skill and caution the possible disruptive effects of being known as gay. However, the fear is always present that my activism will lead to repercussions. Yet, despite the risks, I am writing here. Further, I feel that I shouldn't and couldn't stay quiet and complacent when people are being hurt and abused. It isn't me. I've always been sympathetic to the feelings and needs of minorities — political, racial, religious and sexual.

A number of other gays I've worked with have had fewer constraints in coming out and accepting themselves. One of my difficulties has always been trying to get them to understand my situation and feel for it. Though I've seldom been mistreated or insulted, I

feel I never have found total acceptance. Perhaps my cautious approach is a reason. There could be others that I don't know of or understand.

When I left Tallahassee, the AGA and the gay activists were trying to solve a number of problems. One was expansion into North Florida and Tallahassee off campus. Attempts have been made to offer services to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and Tallahassee Community College. These schools have no organizations of their own. Consultation with high school guidance counselors was underway. Prior to leaving I was in one session. Sincere efforts to link arms with women have begun. There has always been a problem with men and women working together in Tallahassee (since 1973 at least). Personality conflicts have been eased. Cruel remarks, on occasion, have threatened to impair or destroy working relationships and co-ordination efforts. However, as of last report, the AGA and the total community were putting together a state-wide convention of the Florida Coalition of Gay Organizations scheduled for this month. Tallahassee had the second largest contingent last year.

It has been arduous, fearful, but at the same time exhilarating to work with so many diverse persons and units in so many ways to advance our cause for understanding and civil liberties. Despite all that would threaten to hurt or humiliate, I plan to work, persuade and help to bring about a little more positive, loving and considerate world that respects the individual and his/her sexuality. This article is submitted with this hope in mind.



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GUESTS

PROVINCETOWN

Affair (with GCN)



Photos by Ray Hopkins



The Burgandies

Violent Unit Hearing Continued from Page 1

because we are such a threat to their control over everything. I think the unit is a response to the growing strength of women and the Women's Movement. The unit will be used against any strong woman who challenges what is going on. Psychiatry has traditionally put lesbians in hospitals to be cured, and even though today homosexuality isn't classified as a disease, mental hospitals are still being used to mold people to conform to traditional standards."

The Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts has voiced its unanimous opposition to the unit. They cited the effect the stigma of commitment could have on parole, pre-release, or length of incarceration for women transferred from other institutions. They are worried about the fact that the civil rights regulations now included are only "voluntarily adopted" and could be "unadopted" if they became burdensome.

Coalition Opposes Unit

Some of the most organized opposition to the unit has come from the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence, a broad based coalition of prisoners rights advocates, mental patient advocates and feminist groups. They believe the Worcester Unit is "part of a national trend towards further institutionalized isolation and confinement of women."

As Christy Barsky of the Coalition testified, "No amount of DMH and Dept. of Corrections obfuscation will change the reality that prisoners and mental patients react against conditions of their confinement." Violence is provoked, said Connie Breece, because of power relationships between guards and prisoners or medical staff and patients. Breece,

former director of the Framingham Prison Project, spoke of women's legitimate anger "at being locked away from a society that has failed them again and again."

"The unit will not solve the problems created by institutional conditions," said DeCourcy Squire, of the Boston Bail Fund, "because it shares those conditions." It will be "for people who have failed. Either to cooperate, to conform, or to be 'cured.' It might help Framingham Prison, but it won't help the women themselves."

One of the stronger criticisms voiced at the hearing was that the Worcester Unit provides no alternative to existing state institutions. Gail Sullivan of Transition House called for community based programs that meet the needs of women in crises without setting up a cycle of further institutionalization. Wendi Weinschel stressed the same point. At the hearing Weinschel said, "It has been my experience in working with women that what we need instead of institutions that keep women out of daily life, are programs to increase a woman's options and abilities. Self esteem, self worth and self confidence create health far more long lastingly and effectively than drugs and lobotomies do."

Both sides are now awaiting the recommendation from the Department of Public Health. Mary Hennings, Hearing Examiner for the Determination of Needs Office at DPH, is expected to make her recommendation to the Public Health Council within the next three to four months. The Council will hold one more hearing and then decide whether to deny the unit, approve it, or send the issue back to be re-studied.

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people, places and flings

By Eric Rogers

Homophile Community Health Service has announced a very special benefit. Their spring brunch will take place on Sunday, May 21 from noon until 3:00 p.m. at the **Rooftop Ballroom** at **The Parker House**. This elegant affair will feature a champagne hour followed by a gourmet brunch, including crêpes, asparagus, and delicious desserts. **Dr. Sandy Reder** will be emcee for the event and the **HCHS** Executive Director, **Sue Rosen**, will be speaking. There will be several exciting guests, and the afternoon looks like it will be very special. The tickets for this benefit brunch will be \$18.50/person and \$32 for a couple. Other information may be obtained by calling **HCHS** at 542-5188...

GCN's benefit showing of **Word Is Out** at the Orson Welles Cinema last week was a nice success. **Lucy Massie Phenix**, one of the film's directors and producers, was on hand to speak about the movie and answer questions. **David Gillon**, who was the student from U.Mass Amherst interviewed in the film, was also present to talk about his part in the movie. **GCN** thanks all those who attended the benefit and especially **Lucy** and **David** for helping us out. The film is doing very nicely at the Welles and, if you haven't seen it yet, don't miss it...

Bob White will be celebrating his birthday May 12. Happy Birthday, **Bob**, from all of us at **GCN**! I hear **Bob** has done quite a job with the **Randolph Country Club** and I hope to get down there soon, before the summer rush... **The Captain's House** in **Provincetown** is gearing up for the season. Friends who visited last week report a very friendly atmosphere... A new idea! A catering service that will serve from two people to a whole banquet. The service, called **TW's**, is managed by **Tom Tilman** and will feature an

international menu and 24-hour service. Keep your eyes open for more information...

The Corral in New London, Connecticut, opens next week... watch for their happy hour... On May 5 at 8:00 p.m. on **WGBH** Channel 2, there will be a special program, **Willa Cather's America**. The documentary will follow the settings of her books and include a sensitive portrait of this important novelist... On Sunday, May 7, **Kenny Arkin** and **Willie Sordill** of the **Men Against Sexism Music Collective** will be giving a concert at the Red Barn at Hampshire College. If you're out in Central Mass., stop by at 2:00 p.m. for this free concert...

On Sunday, May 14, at 11 a.m., anti-war activist and former priest **Philip Berrigan** will speak at the **Community Church of Boston** in Morse Auditorium, 602 Commonwealth Ave. The **Rhode Island Feminist Theater** will also be present, performing scenes from the play **Internal Injuries**, about three very different women's struggles... At the **Glines**, 260 West Broadway in New York City, until May 7 is **The War Widow** by **Harvey Perr**. Originally seen on television, this provocative drama has now been brought to the **Glines**. Phone 212-254-9397 for reservations...

Casse Culver will be at **Amaranth**, 134 Hampshire St. in Cambridge on May 12 & 13 at 9 p.m. All women are encouraged to come to her shows... On Saturday, May 13 there will be **An Evening of Women's Videotapes**, including **We Will Not Be Beaten**, an excellent video piece which grew out of the work of women at **Transition House**. Interested women should call 254-1616...

Spring is here... breathe a sigh of relief... the pansies are in the Public Garden... enjoy the season...

Bikers Invade Vineyard

By Leland Stone

The slate water is silver-touched by day's-end sun 'n' I ride the ferry to Martha's Vineyard where I'll be joining the **Falcons In Flight** run. It is to be held in the **Tisbury Inn**, a gay hotel with pool and sauna, soon to be filled with gay men from the northeast.

The **Rhode Island Falcons** couldn't have chosen a more perfect weekend for their first anniversary run. We were met at the dock by their Captain, **Robert Anderson**, Secretary **Lance L.** and others. Our bags were taken by van to the historic **Tisbury Inn** and we enjoyed a leisurely walk through the quaint, shop-filled town of **Tisbury**.

Registration, cocktails and buffet flowed smoothly into a late cocktail party held by **Connecticut's Guardians M.C.** followed by dancing on a superb disco floor. We were all greeted Saturday morning with bloody marys and breakfast. There were more intros to the rest of the 60-some men who had joined the **Falcons** on their first anniversary. The **Boston Vikings** received an award plaque later in the evening for the largest attendance. The **Nine Plus Club** of New York, **The Guardians**, **Voyagers**, **DC Druids**, **ASMC** of Boston and many independents attended. One man, **Robert McFarland**, rode his **Honda GL-1000** all the way from Toronto.

It was an important and impressive first run for this 15-member club. From the first moment to the last, from the food through events such as swimming matches to the Sunday departure all went well. Much of the credit should go to **Road Captain Jimmy L.**, **Asst. R.C. Dave F.** and **Sgt. at Arms Walter L.** They allowed for plenty of leisure time on Saturday so we could shop and sun. Some members rented Mopeds or bicycles and rode off to a town called **Gay Head**. Others shopped or searched the town for some of the strange items on the scavenger hunt list.

The **Falcons** club purpose, as stated by Pres. **Bob Anderson**, is to promote fellowship among brother and sister clubs and the awards dinner Saturday evening maintained the spirit of that ideal. Anniversary toasts abounded: the most memorable and moving was rendered by **Ron**, President of the **Guardians**. **Tom Oliveri**, **Road Capt.** of the **Vikings M.C.**, was inducted as the **Falcons'** first associate member.

There is no doubt that I'll be joining the **Falcons** in their **Flight Two** next year. And if you are in Providence on the first Saturday of the month, join them in their club night. It is held at **The Pub**, of the **Gallery Bar**, 149 Richmond St. in downtown Providence.

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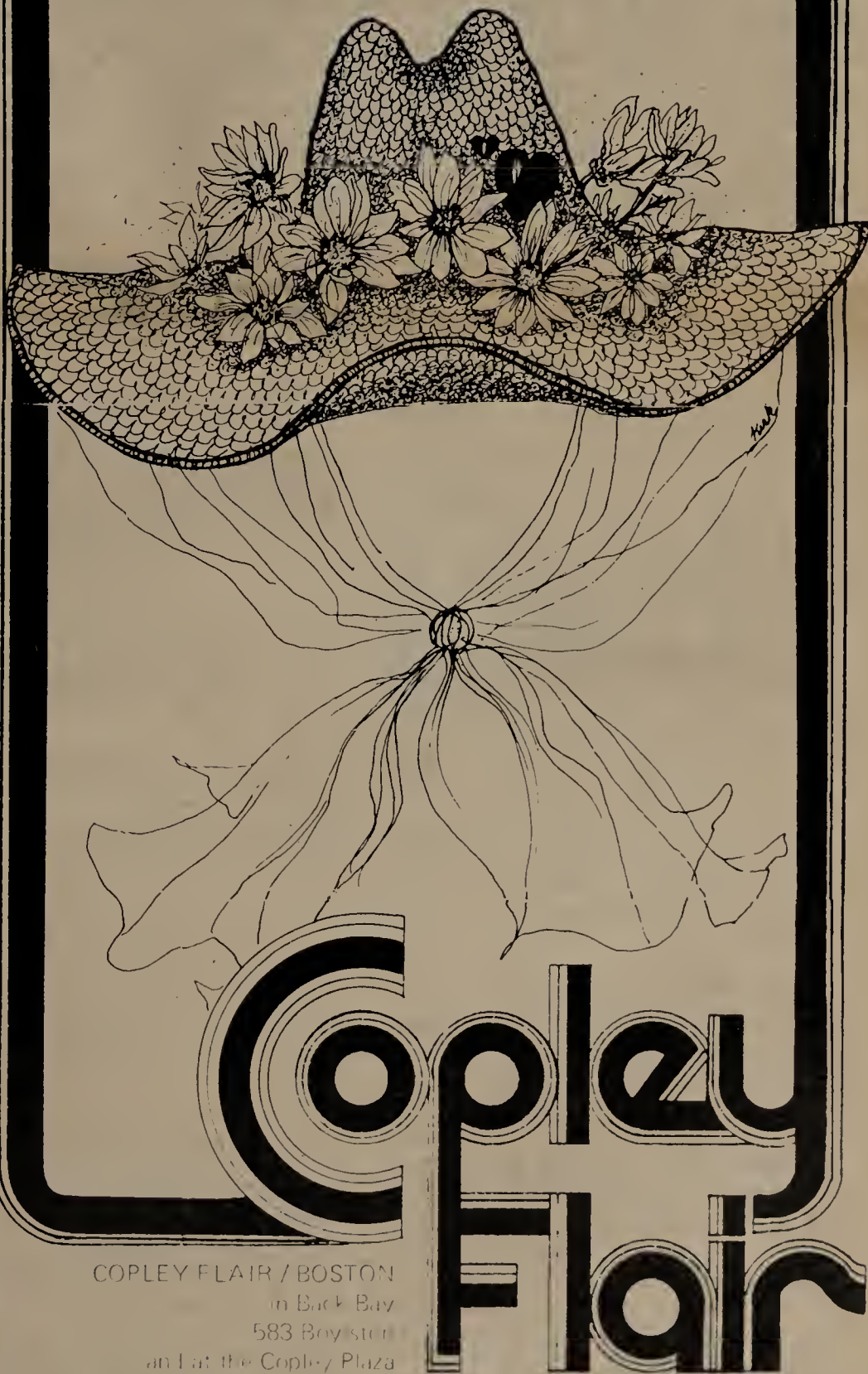
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organizations

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A Lesbian support group will have its first mtg May 2 at 7pm at NH Feminist Health Center, 38 S. Main St., Concord, NH. The group is free and will run for 9 wks. initially. For more info call (603) 225-2739. (41)

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Dignity/Boston sponsors EXODUS MASS, a liturgy for gay and concerned Catholics every Sunday at Arlington Street Church (Boston), Boylston St. entrance at 5:30 pm. For info. contact Dignity/Boston, 355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02114. Tel. 536-6518. (35)

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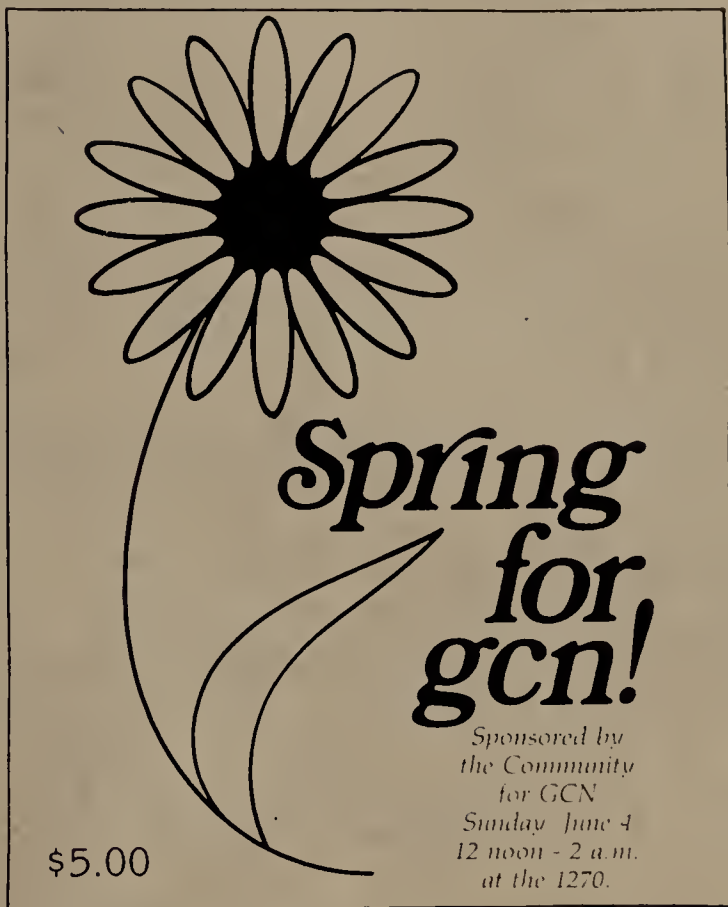
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MONDAYS

11:30am — Lesbian Support Group meeting at Tufts Women's Center, 628-5000 ext. 702.
12 noon — Northeastern U. GSO meeting, Eli Center, rm. 349, 369 Huntington Ave., Boston. Everyone welcome.
5:30pm — Women's Community Health Center open house, 137 Hampshire St., Cambridge.
6-10pm — NH Lambda for Lesbians, phone (603) 228-8542.
6-8pm — Lesbian awareness consciousness-raising group. BU Women's Center, basement of Sherman Union Bldg. 353-4240.
6:30-8pm — Alcoholism discussion/education group for lesbians, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA, 661-1316.
6:30-8:30pm — Gay Health Services by appointment, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.
7pm — Gay alcoholics group, 10 Walnut St., Worcester, MA.
7-9pm — Supportive lesbian rap, Janus House, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, (617) 661-2537.
7-9pm — U. of Vermont Gay Switchboard, 656-4173.
7-10pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.
7-9pm — Yggdrasil Gay Gathering at Yggdrasil, 15 Gilbert Rd., Storrs, CT, (203) 486-4737.
7:30pm — UMass Amherst, Bisexual Women's Rap Group, Campus Center.
7:30pm — Lesbian Feminist Union meeting, 55 Eddy St., Providence, RI.
7:30pm — Homophile Community Health Service — Drinking problems rap group, 80 Boylston St., Rm. 855, Boston.

8pm — Nashua (N.H.) Area Gays rap session; call (603) 882-8732.
8pm — Monadnock Area Gays, for information call Fitzwilliam, NH (603) 585-9419.
8pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 215 Park St. NH.
8pm — GPC business meeting, Columbia U., Fernald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.
8-9pm — "None of the Above," WWUH-FM (91.3), West Hartford, CT, (203) 521-4553.
8pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 148 Orange St., New Haven, CT.
8:30pm — Gay Alanon (gay alcoholics), Info, 843-5300.
8:30pm — Hartford Gay Alcoholics Group, (203) 522-2646.
8:30pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, open meeting, basement Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven, 436-8945; public welcome.
9pm — Gay discussion group, Columbia U., Fernald basement, Broadway at 115th St.

TUESDAYS

6:30-8pm — Women's Gay Collective, Women's Center, UConn, CT, (203) 486-4738

7pm — Pot Luck Supper, 228 1/2 Atwells Ave., Providence, RI.
7:30pm — Integrity, gay Episcopalians, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston.
8pm — Springfield Gay Alliance, First Unitarian Church, 245 Porter Lake Dr., Springfield.
8pm — Martha's Vineyard Gay Women & Men's Rap Group; info and details call 627-8097.
8pm — DOB women's rap, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA, 661-3633.
8:30pm — Providence Gay Group of AA, Assumption Parish Hall, 791 Potters Ave., Providence, RI, 231-5853.
8:30pm — Deaf lesbians and gay men are invited to meet other deaf and hearing gays who know (or are learning) sign. MCC, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston

8:30pm — Gay A.A. 333-1396

WEDNESDAYS

6:30-8:30pm — Gay Health Services, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.
7pm — MCC/Providence Potluck at Parsonage, rap during and after dinner. Bring and share. (401) 272-9247.
7pm — Lesbian Support Group, UNH Women's Center, Durham, NH
7pm — Liberation Rap Group, (617) 756-0730.
7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective meeting, Storrs, CT. Info: (203) 486-4738.
7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective, UConn Women's Center, (203) 486-4738.
7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective meeting, Storrs, CT. Info: (203) 486-4738.
7-9pm — University of Vermont Gay Switchboard, (802) 656-4173.
7:30pm — MCC midweek service, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.
8pm — Discussion group for lesbians and gay men, Christ Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie, NY.
8pm — HUM meets, Box 262, Fitchburg, MA 01420.
8pm — Yalesbians meeting, rm. B-8, Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT, 436-8945.
To update your listing or to put a new listing into Everyweek send info to Listings Editor, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.
8-10pm — URI Gay Social Club, 4th floor Group Room, Roosevelt Hall, (401) 792-5954 or Carl 789-8360.
8:30pm — Gay-straight Rap, UConn, Mental Health Clinic, (203) 486-4705.
9-12pm — Gay Social, Columbia U., Fernald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.
10:15pm — "Gaybreak Radio" on WMUA-FM (91.1) (1st and 3rd Wednesdays).
10:15pm — "Gay News" radio on WHUS-FM, (91.7), Storrs, CT

THURSDAYS

5pm — Brandeis Gay Alliance, Usdan Student Ctr., Conf. Rm. C, Brandeis U., Waltham, MA.
7pm — Gay Alcoholics, St. Vincents Hospital, Worcester, MA.
7m — Game Night, 5 Junction St., Providence, RI, alternate weeks.
7-10pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.
7:30pm — Daughters of Bilitis, Gay women's rap at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. For more information call 661-3633.
7:30pm — UConn Gay Alliance meets in the Student Union, Rm. 218, University of Connecticut, Storrs.
8pm — Lesbian Liberation, informal rap group Woman's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA
8pm — Womenspace coffeehouse and workshop, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.
8pm — Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210.
8pm — Dykes & Tykes, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA, third floor, care for young people, 354-8807.
8-9pm — Lesbian Mother rap group, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, MA, 661-2537.

8:30pm — Gay Women's Caucus, UMass/Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center
8:30pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, Hendrie Hall basement, 436-8945, New Haven, CT.
9pm — Emerson Homophile Society, rm. 24, 96 Beacon St., Boston.

FRIDAYS

7-8:30pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Cntr. Staniford St., across from Longfellow Towers.
7-9pm — GRAC men's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston.
7:30pm — Am Tikva service, social at Frost Lounge, Eli Center, Northeastern Univ., 300 Huntington Ave., Boston.
7:30pm — Rap group for men and women, MGTF, 193 Middle St., Portland, ME.
7:30pm — Gay get-together, downstairs round-room, Billings Center, U of VT, Burlington.
8:30pm — Berkshire Community Gay Coalition meets at 175 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA. Call (617) 442-9450, M-Th eves.
8:30pm — Alcoholics Together, Our Lady of Victory Church, Isabella St., Boston.
9-12pm — GAY coffeehouse, Hendrie Hall basement, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT.

SATURDAYS

2pm — Project Lambda Rap session for gay teenagers, 70 Charles St., Boston.
3-6pm — Gay folk dancing for women and men, Peabody room, 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House (north end of Harvard Yard). Call Eric (617) 776-6377.
10pm-3am — Worcester Hotline, 791-6562.



SUNDAYS

9am — Closet Space 740AM with Lisa Schwartz and Joe Martin. (Boston)
11am — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.
1-2:30pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Cntr. Staniford St., across from Longfellow Towers.
2pm — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.
2pm — MCC/Worcester service, Central Cong. Church, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester.
2:30pm — "Gay A's" Alcoholics Rap, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.
4-6pm — Gay Women's Group of Providence rap, (401) 831-5184.
5pm — Dignity/Integrity Mass, St. Luke's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY.
5pm — MCC/Boston Bible study group, 131 Cambridge St., 523-7664.
5:30pm — Exodus Mass, Arlington St. Church, Boylston St. entrance, Boston
5:30pm — Dignity service, Arlington St. Church, Boylston St. entrance, Boston.
6:30pm — Gay Church services, 23 Franklin St., Bangor, ME.
7pm — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.
7pm — MCC services, South Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (first Sunday of month).
7pm — MCC/Providence, 134 Mathewson St. (401) 272-9247.
7pm — MCC/NY worship, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.).
7pm — MCC/Boston, worship and fellowship, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.
7:30pm — MCC worship, 425 College St., New Haven, CT.
7:30pm — MCC/Hartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.
8pm-12am — Brown/RISD Gay Students Association, 305 Faunce House, Providence, RI (401) 836-3062
8-12pm — NH Lambda for lesbians; phone (603) 332-4440.

CALENDAR

We've expanded our calendar to include monthly listings. The deadline for Calendar Items is Wednesday at noon for the following issue.

6 sat

Cambridge — A Spring Fair to raise money for the Ella Ellison Support Committee. Noon-6pm. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (nr. Harvard Sq.)

Cambridge, MA — Gay Folk Dancing 3pm, 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House Harvard

7 sun

Boston — Women's Softball 5pm Magazine Beach (on Charles River near Stop & Shop, 10 blocks south of Central Sq.) Bring bats, balls, etc

Boston — Rev. Deane Starr will speak on "Love and Freedom" at the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus 355 Boylston St. 7pm.

Cambridge — CLOSET SPACE (WCAS 740 AM) Gore Vidal: Sex and Politics in Massachusetts. A broadcast of the lecture given by Mr. Vidal on April 5th at the Arlington Street Church for the benefit of the Boston/Boise Committee. 9am.

Boston — CLEARSPACE Benefit Auction/Raffle/Brunch 3-7pm Somewhere, 295 Franklin St. Call 277-2484 for info.

Framingham — Pot luck dinner and discussion group. Lambda of Middlesex 3pm. Call 877-8550 for info.

Boston — Women come and boogie at the benefit for Ja Shin Do. A Women's Martial Art Academy 8pm-midnight, at the George Sherman Union Ballroom, Boston University, 755 Commonwealth Ave. Dance to disco and live music by Bougainvillea, a woman's four-piece jazz band. Karate demonstration, cash bar and a door prize. \$2 donation.

Amherst, MA — Men Against Sexism Concert with Kenny Larkin and Willie Sordill, Hampshire College in the Red Barn. 2pm. Free.

Portland, ME — The first meeting of the Portland Gay Community Center Planning Committee will be held at 2pm at 92 Bedford St. For further info, call 780-4089.

9 tues

Boston — Organizational meeting for Lesbian and Gay Teacher Group. All interested teachers, ex-teachers, school workers are urged to attend. 8pm. 355 Boylston St.

NYC — Integrity Social & Dance. 8:30pm. Church of St. Luke-in-the-Fields, Hudson St. at Grove St.

Boston — Salute and Support the ERA. 5:30pm-9pm. 9 Fairfield St., Back Bay. Wine & Cheese. \$10 donation to benefit the US League of Women Voters' National Effort to Ratify the US Equal Rights Amendment.

Boston — The Boston/Boise Committee will meet at 8pm at Old West Church. Election of Officers, 131 Cambridge St.

Boston — Clearspace is offering a 5-week course in darkroom techniques to be held two hours a week. Fee is \$25, plus supplies. Marcus DeVito will instruct. Also held on Thursdays. Call 277-0966 for info.

Cambridge, MA — Women's Folk Dance. 7:30-9:30pm. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. Info 623-1462

Providence, RI — 2nd anniversary of the Providence Gay A.A. group. There will be guest speakers and a buffet. 8:30pm. Assumption Parish Rectory, 791 Potters Ave.

Boston — Integrity presents a panel of women and men on "Different Perspectives on Being Gay". 7:30pm Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

10 wed

NYC — Our Right to Love — A Lesbian Resource Book, with Ginny Vida of NGTF. Editor. 8:30pm. Gay Women's West Side, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

Framingham — Lambda of Middlesex monthly organizational meeting. 8pm. Call 877-8550 for info.

Boston — Lesbian and Gay Pride Week Steering Committee Meeting. 7pm. 355 Boylston St. All welcome.

11 thurs

NYC — Health Fair. Women from the Gay Nurses' Alliance and St. Marks' Clinic will present a film on breast self-examination, check blood pressure and will provide info on where to obtain low-cost health care in a non-sexist environment. 8pm. Gay Women's Alternative at the Universalist Church, Central Park West at 76th St.

Boston — The Rhode Island Feminist Theatre presents *Internal Injuries*, a play of battered women. At the Boston Center for the Arts through 5/20. 539 Tremont St. 8pm. Tickets \$3.50 at the door.

12 fri

Amherst, MA — Gay Disco sponsored by The People's Gay Alliance at UMass/Amherst. 9:30pm-1am. 10th floor Campus Center. \$1. donation. For info, call (413) 545-0154.

Cambridge — Casse Culver and the Bell Star Band in concert at Amarath Women's Restaurant, 134 Hampshire St. 9pm. Sat. also. Tickets, \$2.50. Info: 354-8371.

13 sat

Providence, RI — The Rhode Island Women's Music Collective will play and there will be a speaker on Gay Health Issues at the Mediator Coffeehouse, Wickenden St. 8pm.

Cambridge — Gay Folk Dancing. 3-6pm. 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.

Boston — Hike up Mt. Monadnock, Dublin, NH. Sponsored by Boston Unitarian Gays. Meet at Boston Common, corner of Charles and Beacon. 8:30am (or 10:30am at the base of Dublin Trail). For further info, call 227-6167. Bring lunch, good walking shoes and warm clothing.

Hartford, CT — "With a Little Help From Our Friends" is the title of a lesbian rights conference sponsored by the Northeast Regional NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. Activities include workshops, speakers, a parade and a rally. \$5. registration. Sheraton Hartford Hotel, Civil Center Plaza, Trumbull St. Free child care available. For info, contact Ann Crimmins, 3 Round Hill Rd., Granby, CT. 06035.

Boston — Men Supporting Lesbian Mothers contingent meets at 11:30am on Boston Common by the State House. All interested men urged to participate.

Boston — Open organizational meeting of the Boston Area Gay Softball Committee. 4pm, Arlington St. Church. For info, call Stewart at 491-6587.

Boston — Lesbian Mothers Day Rally. Support the rights of lesbian mothers and the rights of all of us to decide if, when and how to have children. There will be music, entertainment and speakers on being a lesbian mother, child custody for lesbians with children, welfare, abortion, and sterilization abuse. Child care will be provided at the rally. Join us at noon. Boston Commons near the State House.

Boston — Benefit for Lesbian Mothers Day Rally. Disco with Jacqui Mac. Club 76. 76 Battery March St. 8pm-2am. If you need child care please call GCN. 426-4469 and ask for Nancy Wechsler.

14 sun

Providence, RI — Gay Women of Rhode Island and Gay Women of Brown will meet (separately) at the Sarah Doyle Women's Center, Brown Univ. 7pm.

NYC — Dykes & Tykes is sponsoring a Mother's Day Lesbian Motherhood Rally and Celebration at PS 41 (11th St. & 6th Ave.). Those featured include singers Bev Grant and Margie Rosenbluth and Poet Audre Lorde. 7:30pm.

Boston — "Committed Relationships" a program on couples, at the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus, 355 Boylston St. 7pm.

Cambridge — CLOSET SPACE (WCAS 740am). Singer/songwriter Casse Culver sings and talks with co-host Lisa Schwartz. 9am.

Boston — Baby Bones and Company, from NYC, will appear at Club '76. Two shows, 5pm & 8pm. \$2. donation. Proceeds will be used to provide musical entertainment at the Mass. Correctional Institution, Framingham.

15 mon

NYC — Demonstration and guerrilla theatre on lesbian custody rights. Sponsored by Dykes & Tykes. Foley Square, opposite the Manhattan Family Court and the Supreme Court. Noon.

17 wed

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Pride Week Steering Committee Meeting. 7pm. Dignity, 355 Boylston St. All welcome.

18 thurs

NYC — Merlin Stone, author of *When God Was a Woman*, will speak at the Gay Women's Alternative. The Universalist Church, Central Park West at 76th St. 8pm.

19 fri

Hartford, CT — Hartford/MCC will hold its annual meeting at 8:30pm. 11t Amity St. Info: 522-5575.

Boston — Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus is going on a weekend trip to Albany, NY. For more info, contact Bob Wheatley at (617) 742-2100.

21 sun

Boston — The Homophile Community Health Service is holding its Spring Brunch benefit at the Parker House Rooftop Ballroom. Speakers will discuss the past and the future of HCHS. For info and reservations, call 542-5188.

Cambridge — CLOSET SPACE (WCAS 740am) hosts gubernatorial candidate Barbarta Ackerman. 9am.

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